

HOME NEWS

Move to save tax-free gratuities of aircrew

By Arthur Reed
Air-Communications

Efforts were being made within the Ministry of Defence yesterday to save the tax-free gratuities of up to £5,000 that have been promised to military aircrew, and which the Department of Health and Social Security wants to end.

According to government sources, about 450 men, pilots and aircrew officers in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, all on short-service engagements will be affected.

Those men had a choice of three career schemes when they signed on. They could serve for 16 years to qualify for a "sizeable" pension, or for eight or 12 years with a tax-free gratuity of £2,750 or £5,000 respectively.

But under the Social Security Act people in civilian employment must be paid a pension if they have worked for an employer for five years from the age of 21. It is that scheme that the Department of Health and Social Security wants to extend to the Services from April 1, which would result in the short-service aircrew receiving a pension at the age of 60 rather than the gratuity they were promised when they joined.

The proposal by the department is retrospective and so would affect officers on 12-year engagements who joined the Services as long ago as 1966.

One of the attractions of joining the Services on a short-service commission has been the tax-free gratuity, which officers have traditionally used to set themselves up in civilian life. Retirement for that type of service is likely to be radically affected if the rules are changed.

There is a strong feeling among the officers who would be affected if the department's plan goes through that the Government is going back on a bargain it struck when they entered the Service. They were slightly heartened yesterday by the knowledge that the Ministry of Defence, their employer, is fighting the case on their behalf within the Civil Service.

The Department of Health and Social Security said last night, "The White Paper Strategy for Pensions in 1971, which introduced the preservation of pensions proposals, made it clear that members of the Armed Forces would normally have to be provided with preserved pensions on the same basis as members of any other occupational pensions scheme."

"It was recognized that these proposals would have implications for the arrangements by which certain officers receive a gratuity at the end of their Service commission. But the Government's view is that it would be inconsistent with the aim of preservation to allow the payment of a gratuity to take away the right to a preserved pension, since such arrangements are not available to any other occupational pension scheme and its members."

Leading article, page 15

'Irregularities' at mental hospital

Detectives are questioning staff at Carstairs state mental hospital, Strathclyde, over allegations of irregularities, including the taking of drink into the hospital, it was disclosed yesterday.

The allegations were made by a doctor. A separate public inquiry is to be held on March 21 into an escape attempt from the hospital that ended in the violent deaths of a patient, a male nurse and a policeman.

Mr Callaghan in devolution talks about talks

By Our Political Reporter
Mr Callaghan is to see Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, today and Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Conservative Party, on Monday, to discuss the devolution talks for Scotland and Wales. The talks will form a preliminary sounding to the Government's proposal that there should be all-party talks on devolution.

Mr Steel, Leader of the House and the Cabinet minister responsible for the devolution Bill, is arranging talks with the nationalist parties in the Commons again on an exploratory basis to discover whether there could be an all-party meeting.

While the Scottish National Party has announced that it will introduce its own Bill on devolution, the view of the United Ulster Unionists yesterday was that they could see no way forward on the present basis.

Mr James Molyneux, their leader, said he could not see that any such talks could be held that had not been done in the House, especially as Mr Foot had said that the Government aimed at widening the area of agreement and securing all-party acceptance.

Mr Molyneux explained that if the plans were on the lines of the old Northern Ireland formula of a convention it was less likely to achieve a solution than that attempted in Ulster.

The UUUC was opposed to the Bill as long as Northern Ireland, which was an integral part of the United Kingdom, was denied fair and just representation in the House of Commons and remained deprived of any devolved powers of an assembly above the level of district councils.

100,000 students join tuition-fee protests

By Judith Judd, of The Times
Higher Education Supplement

More than 100,000 students from about a hundred colleges took action yesterday in protest against the Government's proposed tuition-fee increases.

There were occupations at about thirty colleges, and teachers, picketing, lobbying and demonstrations at many more. Last night the National Union of Students called for a one-day strike of its 800,000 members on March 9.

Some of the occupations such as those at City, Brunel, Sheffield and Keele universities began several days ago and are expected to continue today.

At Warwick and Bath universities the vice-chancellors, Dr John Butterworth and Professor P. T. Matthews, took part in teach-ins in opposition to the increases.

In London, students from King's College, Thames Polytechnic and the London School of Economics picketed the Department of Education and Science.

Mr David Aarons, a vice-president of the National Union of Students, who manned

yesterday's action desk at the NUS headquarters, said: "We are extremely pleased with the way things are going. About a sixth of our total membership is involved. This shows how strong student feeling is."

Bradford university, which has already agreed not to charge overseas students higher fees than home students, in defiance of the Government's recommendation, called for a joint conference of universities on fees. Letters have been sent to all the universities in the country asking them to send representatives.

Most universities are still considering the request but Warwick has already agreed to it. Some universities think any joint action should be channelled through the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals.

Mr Michael Forsyth, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, said: "The day of action is alienating sympathetic people in higher education. It is making it easier for the Government to impose very bad, unfair legislation."

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Scotland has about 89,000 Gaelic speakers, mainly in the Highlands and in the Western Isles, where the local authority follows a bilingual policy.

Interest in the language, literature and culture of the Gaels is thriving. The most recent census showed a sharp increase in the number of Gaelic speakers for the first time, but the growth, according to Mr Colin Spencer, of An Comunn, has been frustrated by a lack of courses in Gaelic and suitable textbooks.

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Fewer marry and more are seeking divorces

By Our Social Policy
Correspondent

Marriages in England and Wales continue to fall in number and divorces to increase, according to figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Divorce decrees made absolute in 1975 numbered 120,500, seven thousand more than in 1974. The increase is about the same as that between 1973 and 1974, and suggests that the trend has settled down after erratic movements when the Divorce Law Reform Act came into force in 1971.

Most people who obtain a divorce do so in their late twenties, and the commonest duration of a marriage ending in divorce is four years. But more than a fifth of the marriages that ended in 1975 had lasted more than 20 years.

The number of couples divorcing while they still had children under 16 rose by 8 per cent in 1975, compared with 1974, whereas those without children rose by only 4 per cent.

There were 380,600 marriages in 1975, 6,200 fewer than the previous year. Although the fall in first marriages was less than in 1973 or 1974, rates of first marriage analysed by age group were still falling, except for those over 30.

Remarriages of widows and widowers fell slightly, and remarriages of divorced people rose by 5 per cent. About one in six of those marrying were divorced and half of those married someone who was also divorced. The combination of two divorced people remarried has recently been increasing by about 7 per cent a year.

More than half the marriages in 1975 involved a religious ceremony although the trend to more civil marriages continued.

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Each value has a slightly different design.

Philatelists find jubilee stamps dull

By Craig Seton

A set of four silver jubilee postage stamps issued to mark the Queen's accession to the throne was criticised yesterday as "humdrum", "unimaginative" and "old-fashioned" by philatelists attending the annual Stampex exhibition in London, but it was not without its admirers.

The stamps will be available at post offices from May 11 to coincide with a jubilee tour of the nation by the Queen, which starts in mid-May. They are in values of 8p, 10p, 11p and 13p, and are described by the Post Office as reminiscent of stamps issued in 1935 to commemorate the silver jubilee of George V.

The 8p stamp is printed in pale blue, grey, deep olive, black and silver; the 10p in ochre, grey, royal blue, black and silver; the 11p in rose-pink, grey, deep magenta, black and silver;

and the 13p in olive-yellow, grey, agate, black and silver. They were designed by Mr Richard Guyatt, professor of graphic art at the Royal College of Art, London.

It was the similarity to the 1935 issue that brought much criticism and some praise at the Stampex exhibition.

Mr Douglas Muir, assistant editor of Stamp Collecting magazine, said the design was classic and he rather liked it, although the Queen's expression was rather severe.

Mr Charles Hodgson, vice-chairman of Stampex, said: "They do not excite me. I am disappointed because here was a genuine opportunity to design a new line."

Dr Jean Alexander, a member of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, said the design was old-fashioned. Mr Denis Vigor, a collector from Amersham, Buckinghamshire, said: "They convey little of what has happened over these past 25 years, and no thought appears to have been put into them."

But Mrs Lorna Swindells, a London collector, was delighted with the design. "They are right for a formal and traditional occasion of this type."

The longest will run for 17 miles to connect the river Wyre with Houghton in Lancashire, another 14 miles long will link the Haweswater reservoir in the Lake District to the existing Haweswater aqueduct, and the Lune and Wyre rivers will be joined by an eight-mile aqueduct.

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Community-care cash doubled next year

By Our Social Services
Correspondent

Health authorities will get twice last year's money, in real terms, next year for community care projects financed jointly with local authorities, Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday. They will be allocated £21m in 1977-78, compared with £8m.

Joint financing was introduced this financial year to improve community facilities for the neediest groups, particularly elderly people, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

The extra money has helped to halt cuts in residential and day care projects, the first to go in social service spending reductions. It has also helped hospitals to take a closer interest in rehabilitating patients who no longer need medical care but have nowhere to live.

The new joint financing allocation will be shared among areas in proportion to population but weighted according to the number of people in priority groups. The present programme of jointly financed projects includes new homes and day centres for the mentally ill and elderly, community hostels for discharged psychiatric patients, and training centres for the mentally handicapped.

Most areas receiving the larger share of joint financing money will also benefit most from the new capital and revenue cash limits for the health service in England, also announced by Mr Ennals yesterday.

The 14 English national health regions will be subject to an overall cash limit of £4,138m in 1977-78, with an overall increase in revenue of about 1.4 per cent in real terms over this year. That allows for present pay and price levels and expected increases up to the end of next March.

The Northern, North Western and Trent regions, which the Resource Allocation Working Party says are deprived areas, will have revenue allocations of about 3 per cent more. The four Thames regions, covering the London and South-east areas that have previously been comparatively well endowed with health service money, will be allowed increases of about 1 per cent.

Capital allocations will allow very few new projects to be started next year, but Mr Ennals made clear yesterday that none already begun will be stopped.

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WHY PROFIT ISN'T A DIRTY WORD AT BARCLAYS BANK.

Mention 'profit' and you're mentioning one of the most sensitive words in the dictionary.

The larger the profit, the more sensitive the word becomes.

It seems to be fashionable these days to knock large organisations which make profits.

(Although it's equally acceptable to knock these organisations if they make a loss.)

At Barclays Bank, we make a profit and we're proud of it.

HOME NEWS

Report on boy killed by stepfather urges more training for JPs in handling 'battered baby' cases

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Several government departments are to discuss whether childcare cases should be handled differently in the light of the report on Wayne Brewer, aged four, who was killed by his stepfather after being removed from a care order and sent home by magistrates.

The report, published yesterday, called for more training for magistrates to help them in dealing with "battered baby" cases, a special study of whether the Scottish children's panel system would be preferable to juvenile courts, and for more sections of the Children Act to be implemented.

Mr John Clark, chairman of the review panel set up to consider the boy's death, said in Taunton, Somerset yesterday that it was an inescapable con-

clusion that the magistrates' decision to allow the boy to go home to his parents contributed to his death.

The magistrates decided to allow Wayne Brewer home in spite of the opposition of social workers, who feared he would be at considerable risk of injury there. They placed him under a supervision order, with a recommendation that he should be visited three or four times a week, but staff shortages in Somerset ruled that out.

Mr Christopher Andrews, general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, said yesterday that the chairman of the magistrates knew his recommendation was impossible to meet. Declaring that he was doing it to provide the social services department with a lever to acquire additional resources was "at best

naive, and at worst utterly irresponsible."

Mr Andrews suggested that adopting the Scottish panel system should not wait for an independent study, and called for the full implementation of the parts of the Children Act allowing for independent representation of children in care cases.

Mr John Chant, director of social services for Somerset, yesterday supported the idea of the more informal children's panel system being introduced in England and Wales because he was not sure that the adversarial procedure enabled magistrates to obtain the fullest information. He pointed out that psychiatric reports on the parents were not made available to the court when Wayne Brewer's future was considered.

Bill to curb breaches of planning laws progresses

By Our Parliamentary Staff

A private member's Bill to extend the powers of local planning authorities to serve stop notices under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, was successfully piloted through its committee stage in three Commons yesterday by its promoter, Mr Dudley Smith, Conservative MP for Warwick and Leamington.

Mr Smith told the standing committee that the main aim of his Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill was to try to stamp out those who had a flagrant disregard for through breaches of planning controls that particularly affected local residents. He cited businesses involving banging, loud noises, burning of tyres and other unsocial activities inappropriate to residential areas.

Mr Barnett, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said the Government was generally in favour of the five-page Bill, which was also supported by backbench Labour, Conservative and Liberal MPs during the committee stage, which took only 55 minutes.

Amendments moved by Mr Smith to provide that stop notices might not prohibit the use of land for the purposes of siting a residential caravan and to the long title to allow the Secretary of State for Wales to exercise some of the Bill's provisions were accepted.

The Bill gives local planning authorities who have served an enforcement notice in respect of any land power to serve a stop notice prohibiting the carrying out of any activity that is alleged in the enforcement notice to constitute a breach of planning control.

Provision is made for prosecution of people contravening a stop notice. Consequential amendments are made to the provisions of the Act concerning compensation for loss due to the service of a stop notice.

Powers are given to the Secretary of State to require information about the uses of land.



Mr Frankie Howard, OBE, the comedian, and Sir Norman Hartnell, KCVO, dressmaker to the Queen, outside Buckingham Palace yesterday after receiving the insignia of honours awarded at the new year.

BBC plan to show all of Shakespeare to cost £5m

By our Arts Reporter

The BBC's plan to produce all 37 plays of Shakespeare on television over six years, beginning next January, is to cost £5m. About two fifths of the cost will be paid by Time-Life of America, but the BBC will retain artistic control.

In each of the six years BBC 2 will present a six-week season, probably in the autumn, of at least six plays. The BBC emphasized yesterday that its main aim would be to provide entertainment for British viewers, but it hopes also that American universities may buy copies of the plays.

The provisional list of the first six plays is: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *The Tempest* and *Othello*. Each programme will run for about two and a quarter hours, which means that some of the plays will be split. The three parts of *Henry VI*, for example, will be recorded as two plays, and *Hamlet* may be produced in two parts.

Some of the plays will be filmed on location: *Henry VIII* at Berkeley Castle, *As You Like It* at Glamis, for example. No decisions have been taken about foreign locations or about casting, but Mr Cedric Messina, the producer who will launch the project, is to seek leading British actors and actresses.

The style of the plays is to be studied carefully. Mr Shamus Sutton, head of BBC television drama, said yesterday that the style must be valid for the next 12 years, allowing for the initial six-year period and repeats.

"There is no question," he said, "of giving the project a mid-Atlantic look. Any attempt to do that would result in its sinking without trace in those cold waters."

Visit to Canada

Mr Callaghan is to visit Canada on March 12 for talks with Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister. He will be accompanied by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary.

Boy died after care order was lifted

Yesterday's report is based on the findings of an inquiry launched after Nigel Briffett, aged 23, had been jailed for five years at Bristol Crown Court last October for the manslaughter of Wayne Brewer, his stepson.

In April, 1974, the boy, who lived with his mother, Elaine, now aged 21, and his stepfather at Queen's Road, Bridgewater, Somerset, was taken into the care of Somerset County Council after the social service department had told Sedgemoor Juvenile Court of injuries to the boy, which had been treated in hospital. An attempt by his mother to have the order revoked failed in March, 1975.

Three months later a further application was granted, against the advice of social workers. The court imposed a three-year supervision order instead, and the boy returned home. He died at the hands of his stepfather less than a year later.

The report says: "Greater emphasis should be given in the training of magistrates in the topic of non-accidental injury to children."

Referring to the court's

supervision order, which recommended three or four visits a week to the Briffetts' household by social workers, the report suggested that the court felt "there was some considerable degree of risk".

"We think that the magistrates may well have felt reluctant to rule against the return of the child as it would be received as a harsh blow to a young couple anxious to bring their family together."

"We think the court overestimated the protection which can be afforded by a supervision order even with intensive visiting. This led the court, in our view, to think that they could find a middle course, whereas, in fact, there was none."

The report recommends that suitably qualified social workers should be treated as expert witnesses when giving evidence based on professional opinion. The police should be invited to attend case conferences, where there was reason to suspect battering, and they should be asked to interview directly when their investigative skills could provide important information.

The report referred to an

incident in March 1976, when a health visitor received a report from a neighbour that Wayne Brewer had a black eye. A case conference might have resulted in a decision to ask the police to investigate the injury, the report said.

That might have obtained clear evidence of ill treatment, which would have warranted an application to the court. The report noted that after Wayne Brewer had been returned to his parents no case conference was called. The panel considered that one should have been convened.

The report said that at first the panel found it difficult to reconcile the history of the child's last few weeks of life as seen by the social worker and others and the Crown Court judge's finding that there had been "a pretty long history of violence and intimidation" and "systematic ill treatment".

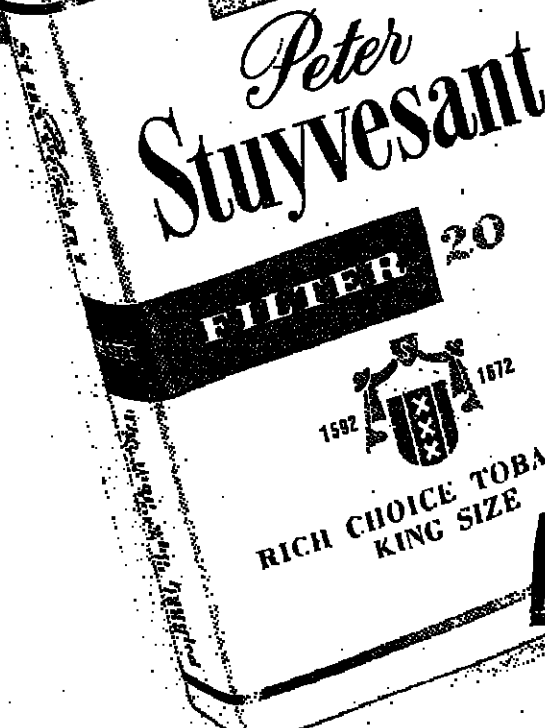
The report said: "We would have expected an experienced consultant paediatrician, social worker, and health visitor, all of whom were on the alert to spot any injury to Wayne, to have recognized it immediately."

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Witness made allegations against 42 policemen

James Humphreys, the former club owner, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had made allegations about 42 police officers. He had made the allegations since being sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for his part in a knife attack on his wife's lover, a crime he insists he did not commit.

Mr Humphreys agreed that, apart from his chain of pornographic bookshops, which earned him £216,000 in three years, he was engaged in international pornography, sex boutiques and strip clubs, and once had an interest in a Soho brothel.

Asked if his fortune from all his interests was nearer £500,000, Mr Humphreys said he did not keep books of accounts. His income was something like £100,000 a year in cash.

Mr Humphreys was giving evidence at the trial of six former detectives with the obscene publications squad. They have variously denied 27 charges of conspiracy and accepting bribes from pornographic traders.

The defendants are Wallace Virgo, aged 39, a former commander, of the Walled Garden, Horse Lane Orchard, Ledbury, Hereford; Alfred Moody, aged 51, retired detective chief superintendent of Elmstone Road, Weybridge, Surrey; Rodney Lawrence Tilley, aged 46, a former detective inspector and now licensee of the Rule and Square, Epsom, Surrey; Leslie Frank Alton, aged 48, a retired police inspector of Harefield Avenue, Chesham, Surrey; Bernard Peter Brown, aged 44, a retired detective constable, now publican of the Plough Inn, Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey; and David Gareth Lee Hamer, aged 34, a detective sergeant suspended from duty, of Courtwood Lane, Addington.

Cross-examined by Mr Robin Simpson, QC, for the defence of Mr Moody, Mr Humphreys said he once had a villa at Ibiza, a yacht, and a farm at Hawkhurst, Kent. Apart from

his pornographic bookshops in London he dealt in international pornography in Holland, Denmark, Sweden and the United States.

He illegally imported pornography into Britain and had had several loads seized by the customs.

He became alarmed and despondent after learning that Det Chief Supt Bert Wickstead, of the serious crimes squad, was after him. Mr Humphreys admitted associating with well known criminals. He also recalled being arrested by Mr Wickstead's team near Amsterdam on June 15, 1973.

Referring to a brothel, Mr Humphreys said he had a house in Greek Street, Soho, London, in partnership with Bernard Silver for two years. They rented the flats to some Maltese, who put prostitutes in them.

When it was suggested that his wife, Rusty, had been convicted of brothel-keeping in respect of the Greek Street address, Mr Humphreys said: "She had nothing to do with it whatsoever but the building was in her name." The flats were let at £200 a week and he paid £1,350 a quarter for the building.

Mr Humphreys agreed with Mr Donald Farquharson, QC, for the defence of Mr Virgo, that in one year he had bought two Rolls-Royces and a Mercedes for his wife, and made frequent holiday trips. He said his activities were antisocial and not criminal. But he was in contact with the police every day.

He had made no conditions with the police about his evidence but had asked for an inquiry into his case. Mr Farquharson asked: "If you had not had that assurance, would you have given evidence in this case?" Mr Humphreys replied: "I do not think I would."

The trial continues today.

Child-murder charge

Mrs Kay Cooks, aged 26, of Primrose Street, Tonypandy, Mid Glamorgan, was remanded in custody until next Tuesday by magistrates at Porth yesterday, charged with murdering her daughter, Gaynor, aged four, on Monday.

Seamen remanded

Gregory Odiwe, aged 39, and Solomon Makindia, aged 34, two Nigerian seamen, were remanded in custody for a week by Hull magistrates yesterday, accused of being concerned with illegally importing nearly 300lb of cannabis.

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HOME NEWS

'Glittering prize' of national scholarships may start this year

From Tim Devlin
Preston

National jubilee scholarships offering glittering prizes to sixth-formers who specialise in science and engineering are likely to be introduced by the Government.

Mr Oakes, Minister of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that discussions along these lines were being held with the Confederation of British Industry, the TUC, the Department of Industry and other departments. The amount of money to be awarded and the number of scholarships were still being discussed.

Mr Oakes was speaking at a press conference at Preston, where the third of the Government's one-day regional conferences on education is taking place. He said that this year being jubilee year, was an ideal time for national scholarships to be introduced. They will concentrate on excellence in practical science and engineering, so that youngsters will see them at sixth-form level (age 16 to 18) as glittering prizes in which they can look back in 40 years' time.

Mr Oakes said he was attracted by the idea that the scholarships should be tied to

specific jobs. Industries should be encouraged to "court" youngsters who won them and take them on at the end of their academic studies.

He complained that industry was not tapping the talents of girls. "Engineering is a precise art. Girls can do it just as well as boys if not better," he said.

Mr C. G. Hallows, a Liverpool city councillor, suggested that 400 industrial scholarships should be awarded every year.

Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said the Engineering Training Board had difficulty in finding girls to take up technical apprenticeships. It was difficult to interest schools in putting girls forward and many girls had not the mathematical ability to take up the apprenticeships. Most of the minority of girls who were good at mathematics intended going to university.

Mr Oakes said that he would like headmistresses to develop opportunities for girls in technical subjects to widen their horizons and to teach them the value of careers in industry. There were a great many girls in teacher-training colleges and he wondered where they would go.

Government could peg farm prices, Lords told

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government, within the EEC's package of farm price proposals, would be able to fix prices for British producers so as to give them scope for expansion, Mr Strang, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday. But he told a Lords committee on agriculture and consumer affairs that "if this is not achieved it will be because of the balance we have to strike between producers and consumers."

Mr Strang had said earlier that the effect of the support package on retail average prices in Britain might be about 4 per cent, or 1 per cent in the retail price index. But he emphasized that such figures must be looked at "somewhat sceptically" because much depended on production levels. "We are talking about the effect of these institutional prices on market prices in the next year."

Much of the session was confined to discussion of what Lord Macleod of Benlachie called "the bugbear" of the milk section, which he felt was the key to the whole package. "Will the measures do the job?" he asked the minister.

Mr Strang replied: "Judged against previous price proposals the current commission proposals are better than might have been expected. But judged against the scale of the problem, which is the real test, they are a step in the right direction but do not go far enough." That was particularly relevant to milk, which he agreed was the core of the package. And that was where the difficult bargaining would take place.

The minister saw no case for an increase in the common price of milk. "We think this enormous surplus, which is very costly, is a monstrous misuse of Community resources," he said.

Almost inevitably the butter mountain then came in for condemnation, too. Lady Tweedsmuir of Belhelvie said the decision to dispose of it was administrative taken by the commission. Surely it would be best dealt with by the council? And could not the butter be sold to pensioners or those on supplementary benefit?

Mr Strang said any issue of sufficient political importance could be brought before the council. And he added: "Whatever the procedural niceties, the Community's history shows that if the measure is a gut political issue then it will be resolved in the council."



Bernard Leach, the potter, contemplating some of his finest work at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The museum's special exhibition, open until May 8, marks his ninetieth birthday

Bus fares may be elastic but economics do not change

By Philip Howard

A transport study published today, after months of study and jangles of impenetrable sociologies, comes to the conclusion that when bus fares go up fewer people use the buses.

That portentous finding is the work of the transport studies group of the Polytechnic of Central London, and is published under the title *Fare Elasticities on Inter-Urban and Rural Bus Services*. The price of the 77 pages of the publication could also be described as elastic: £5 in the United Kingdom, £7.50 overseas.

For the money, however, you get some remarkable insights into bus travel dressed up in even more remarkable jargon. Interviewers spent months on the buses around Morpeth in Northumberland and on the

routes between Sheffield and Doncaster asking the passengers pertinent questions.

The study makes the remarkable discovery that increasing fares may reduce revenue, and that off-peak reductions may actually increase revenue. It says: "While government thinking and planning is (sic) based on the belief that fare increases have little effect on passenger demand, this study concludes that demand for rural and inter-urban services may be much more sensitive to fare changes."

The study supports the present policy of tapering fares, where cost a mile falls as trip length increases, so long as very high rates a mile are avoided on short journeys. It finds that local factors should be taken into account when considering fare levels.

Murder charge

Joseph Shields, aged 31, of Hall Place, Paddington, London, was remanded in custody until today week at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday, accused of murdering Emmanuel Alomab, aged 21, a student, outside Paddington station.

Footballer banned

Gerry O'Hara, aged 20, of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, was fined £115 and banned from driving for 12 months by Wolverhampton magistrates yesterday for driving with excess alcohol, without insurance, and with a deflated tyre.

Britons pay more to have taxes collected

By David Felton

Britain's taxpayers not only had to hand over more money to the Inland Revenue last year but also suffered the ignominy of having to pay more for the privilege.

The Inland Revenue Board, in its annual report for the year ending last March, says that while income tax revenue rose by £4,750m over the previous year its own costs of collecting the taxes rose by more than £104m.

It attributes increased overheads to changes in the two Finance Acts in 1975, the growth in the number of taxpayers, and increasingly complicated taxation.

About a quarter of the extra six thousand or so staff recruited during the year were needed because of extra work arising out of the Finance Acts. But more than half the extra staff were needed to deal with the increase in the number of taxpayers and their more complicated tax affairs.

The report says 600 people joined the Inland Revenue, at a cost of about £2m, to cope with more people moving into the higher income and investment income surcharge groups.

But the board says the higher

cost of collection is not an indication of inefficiency. Efforts are constantly being made to improve efficiency.

One such move is the board's plan that by 1982 all routine collection duties and pay as you earn will have been transferred to computer systems. By the mid-1980s it is hoped to have all routine assessment and collection functions transferred to computers.

Total tax revenue for the year amounted to £28,146m, with income tax accounting for more than half for the first time. Surtax payments were £108m, or 0.4 per cent of the total.

Surtax, which represented 2.3 per cent of the total tax revenue in 1971-72 will have fallen to 0.1 per cent in the current financial year.

The Inland Revenue collected just over 64 per cent of the nation's tax bill, the remaining funds coming from customs and excise and motor vehicle taxes.

During the year covered by the report the board wrote off as irrecoverable taxes of just over £56m. The main reasons were that the taxpayer was abroad, untraceable or insolvent or because the amount owed was too small to justify the cost of recovery.

Compulsory health insurance proposed

By a Staff Reporter

The National Health Service should be replaced with a new system based on compulsory health insurance and an independent national health insurance corporation, the Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association recommends.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service the association says a fundamental change in the philosophy behind health care is needed, and that minor adjustments to the present system would be ineffective.

The health service has been a great social experiment, but now faces a crisis because the premise on which it was founded has proved false, the association says. The universal availability of free health care has not led to a healthier nation and consequently to a reduction in demand for services.

Furthermore, a falling birth rate has resulted in an aging population. The association says: "The paramount need is to improve the delivery of health care to patients." Its proposals would maintain the concepts of protection from fear of financial hardship arising from illness; universal access to treatment; and treatment free at the time of delivery.

Compulsory health insurance would encourage individuals to take an interest in and bear some responsibility for the cost of their treatment and that of people less fortunate than themselves, it is argued.

The proposals have been designed for the majority, with special arrangements for the chronic sick, the elderly, and the mentally sick or subnormal needing long-stay or custodial care.

Hospitals should be managed, the association suggests, by members of the communities served through local, autonomous, boards.

The association says: "Our proposals envisage a totally new system of control with minimal involvement by central government, thus reducing the influence of party politics and eliminating the bureaucracy currently bedeviling the NHS."

It suggests that the compulsory insurance premiums should be assessed according to an individual's means. The cost of caring for the chronic sick and the underprivileged should be paid by those who could afford it.

New version of TUC charter for women

By Our Social Services Correspondent

A new 14-point charter for woman workers was published yesterday by the TUC to bring previous demands up to date in the light of the new equal pay and sex discrimination laws. It says that too many employers are still looking for ways of avoiding giving women equal pay, and that there are too few places where working mothers can safely leave young children.

"Laws on their own are not enough," the charter says. "Laws have to be made to work everywhere and that is why the trade union movement still sets out its aims for women in a special charter."

New aims added since the last charter was published in 1975 cover occupational pensions, family planning and abortion. The TUC wants pension schemes to offer men and women the same cover in return for equal contributions.

The charter supports the extension of free contraceptive advice and abortion facilities through the health service, and says the decision whether to use them is a matter for the individual. The TUC would oppose any restriction on access by women to family planning or abortion services. The charter also calls for better maternity provisions than are available under the Employment Protection Act, and more help for women returning to work after having children.

It calls on local employment offices and job centres to set up advice centres for such women, refresher courses for women returning to the same kind of jobs, and training for those wanting to learn new skills.

The charter says local authorities should be obliged to provide nurseries open throughout the day and round the year, nursery education for pre-school children, and activities after school and during holidays.

The charter argues that women should not be allowed to do jobs that might endanger their health or that of unborn children. Other aims include equality in education, job opportunities, training and promotion and payment of sickness benefit, and an end to discrimination on the ground of marital status.

More Home News, pages 9, 16

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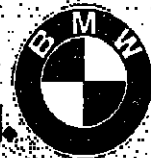


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WEST EUROPE

Commission puts curb on further exports of subsidized butter to Soviet Union or Eastern block

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 2

No more exports of butter to the Soviet Union or other East European countries will be subsidized out of EEC funds "for the foreseeable future", the European Commission announced here today.

The decision was taken at the weekly meeting of the Commission under Mr. Roy Jenkins, its President, and was explained, at a press conference tonight by Mr. Finn Olav Gundelach, the Commissioner responsible for agriculture.

He said that it was proper to strike a balance between the external and internal disposal of butter surpluses; it might be more economic to sell at a subsidized price abroad but it brought no direct benefit to the EEC consumer.

The Community's dairy management committee, which is made up of both Commission and national government officials, tonight approved the Commission's decision by a substantial majority. Under EEC rules, the committee's opinion has to be sought.

Amid a public outcry over reports of heavy sales of butter to the Soviet Union at a third of the price paid by EEC consumers, the Commission last Friday temporarily suspended the authorization of export subsidies. This action

came too late, however, to prevent the approval of subsidies for 36,000 tonnes.

Under the EEC system, a trader is guaranteed the level of the export subsidy he will receive for at least five months ahead, which takes account of the time it may take to ship the butter to its port of destination. Subsidies drawn before last Friday's suspension can thus go on being drawn.

After today's decision, the subsidy will once again be available at its pre-Friday level of £910 a tonne, but the Commission has decided that "to monitor the quantities and destinations of exports of butter, export licences will be granted only after a delay of three days after submission of applications".

Mr. Gundelach explained that the purpose of the delay was to give time to decide whether proposed sales were justified in terms of the market position in the EEC and the needs of the intended recipient. As far as the Soviet Union and other East European countries are concerned, it had been decided that no more sales were justified for the time being.

The Commission also intended "to review the possible methods of disposal of butter, including the relative costs and the balance between efforts on the internal and external mar-

kets". In the light of this review, and the decisions taken later this month by the Council of Ministers on 1977-78 farmland, further proposals might be submitted.

Sources close to Mr. Jenkins said that the Commission's decision to ban the export of cut-price butter to East Europe had been taken because such sales were "politically indefensible". No one in Brussels, however, disputes that such sales are the cheapest way of disposing of the EEC's large surplus, at present, at present, in the Community intervention stocks and another 40,000 tonnes in private storage.

According to the Commission's calculations, for example, it would cost the EEC about £470m in internal subsidies to increase butter consumption in the Community by 150,000 tonnes. The cost of subsidizing the export of the same amount to the Soviet Union at the current rate would amount to about £140m.

In the most controversial decision so far of his presidency, Mr. Jenkins and his colleagues have judged that the political unacceptability of the subsidized sales overrides their economic value. They evidently hope that there will now be greater pressure on the Council of Agricultural Ministers to take action to curb excess milk production in the Community.

Mayoral poll turns into political test in France

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, March 2

The mayoral and municipal council elections on March 13 and 20 in 36,394 towns and villages throughout France have rarely been so political in character or been preceded by such a fierce campaign.

There are several reasons for this. These are the first to be held since the establishment of the Union of the Left, grouping together Socialists, left-wing Radicals and Communists. And for the first time in 100 years, Paris is to have an elected mayor of its own.

These elections are much more of a national political test than previous ones, because they are taking place within a year of parliamentary elections in which, for the first time in more than 40 years, the left has a real chance of coming to power.

Municipal elections in France have always had a strong practical significance because of the intimate connexion between local and national politics. Local politics is the natural springboard to national politics. The post of mayor in a large town is an invaluable—and extremely stable—political base for a parliamentary mandate.

M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister, for instance, who has been Mayor of Bordeaux for 30 years, is also president of the Regional Assembly of Aquitaine and an MP.

Things are different this time. In a candidate on a list headed by a Socialist or a left-wing Radical, it is necessary to take a clear-cut stand on a problem of national politics. One must declare war on the government of the right, as M. Olivier Guichard, the Minister of the Interior, last week, and subscribe to the common programme of the left.

This "exclusiveness" of the Union of the Left means in the union's own words that "there are no longer local interests at stake, there are only national ones".

The clamour and fury of "politicians' politics", as they are derogatorily called in this country, are about to invade hundreds of lesser municipalities. The most important nationalization, writes last week, in the common programme, M. Guichard wrote: "It is the nationalization of local government".

In Paris first of all, but elsewhere, too, the creation of joint lists with the Communists has provoked a bitter and a good deal of backburn among Socialist politicians, especially those of the older generation.

In the mining town of Lens, the local branch of the Socialist Party has defied headquarters and refused to share the common lists with the Communists. In Marseille, M. Gaston Defferre will not go into battle with them, though he has promised to share the administration of the city.



Double billing for M Chirac in the Paris poster war.

Altogether, joint lists have been set up after protracted negotiation and pressure in 185 out of 221 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants. Similar agreements have been reached in 400 out of the 587 towns of between 9,000 and 30,000 inhabitants.

The creation of the Union of the Left in 1972 has had the effect of injecting into local politics the divisions which dominate the national scene. In the last municipal elections of 1971, some 45 per cent of the nearly half a million councilors in smaller towns and villages were elected on non-political lists "for the defence of local interests".

A long-standing tradition reduced the contest in many cases to a straight battle between the outgoing mayor and his team, and a younger challenger, both of whose lists might be a mixture of persons drawn from the left, the right and the centre. Local considerations prevailed over party loyalties.

The voting system itself encourages this apolitical approach to local government. In towns under 30,000 inhabitants, the voters can choose candidates from the different lists and make up their own selection. In towns of more than 30,000 people, where politics are more anonymous, they can only vote for a single list

so that their administration is not paralyzed by partisan conflicts.

The Communists have every reason to be satisfied with these results. They are expected to treble the number of their councilors throughout the country, and for the first time enter the councils of some 15 towns with a population of more than 30,000, among them Toulouse, and, of course, the capital itself.

This Communist advance in local government will, in the eyes of many observers, bring home in concrete terms to ordinary Frenchmen, who have hitherto looked upon it as a national by-play, the realities of the Socialists' alliance with the Communists. And when the Communists get a foothold in a municipality, as the experience of the Red Belt of Paris shows, they pervade the whole administration.

The bitter irony of the situation is that whatever the outcome in Paris, it will be bad for the Government: Bad, of course, if the left wins, but equally bad, if M. Chirac wins, for his victory will mean defeat for the President's man, M. D'Ornano.

That is why the municipal elections are often described as the first round of early parliamentary elections, of which there is increasing talk.

Pressure on news agency condemned

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, March 2

The French National Union of Journalists today condemned what it described as repeated pressures being brought to bear by the Government on Agence France-Presse. In less than a fortnight, it claimed, the management of the news agency had yielded on three occasions to such pressure.

A different journalist had been appointed to report the campaign of M. Michel d'Ornano, Industry Minister, in the Paris elections after the minister complained about the agency's coverage. The agency had also withdrawn a dispatch on the election campaign after the presidential spokesman had complained about its contents.

Finally, the journalists said, the management had decided not to report a press conference held by the printers' union which is in dispute with the owners of *Le Parisien Libéré*. Last night, journalists at Agence France-Presse stopped work for an hour to protest against alleged external interference in their work.

The management says it did not cover some of the charges levelled by the printers' union against the chief proprietor of *Le Parisien Libéré* because they were libellous.

It is said no pressure was brought to bear to change the reporter attached to M. d'Ornano, but that there was a "temperamental incompatibility" between the minister and the reporter.

The annual agreement expired at the beginning of last month when the trade union federation rejected a proposal by employers for no pay increases. —Reuter.

Finland hit by strike wave as pay talks fail

Helsinki, March 2.—Some

20,000 chemical workers went on strike today in what threatens to be the start of a wave of stoppages in Finland after failure to reach a national wages and prices settlement.

The Metal Workers' Union has called its members out from Monday to Wednesday. A management spokesman said that other minor strikes have also been arranged.

The annual agreement expired at the beginning of last month when the trade union federation rejected a proposal by employers for no pay increases. —Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Mr Carter suggests worldwide swapping of homes for holidays

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

President Carter has urged the states' governors to help to promote a world-wide people's exchange. The way Mr. Carter wants it to work is to keep the government firmly out of arrangements—but to have citizens encouraged to "double up" on charter flights and swap each other's homes for the duration of their holidays.

Entertaining the governors and their wives last night at a White House banquet, Mr. Carter spoke with enthusiasm of the "Friendship Force", the Georgia organization he and his wife had supported while he was governor, which aimed to promote world peace.

He envisaged a gradual start, building up to a "massive thing". The White House later suggested that most of the swaps might have half a dozen flights a year, building up to one flight a state monthly—600 a year.

Mr. Carter apparently startled his audience with the proposal. He recalled how he and his wife

had joined Georgians in chartering, for \$200 (£117) a head, a flight to Recife, in Brazil. The "exchange" Brazilians used the airliner for their flight to Georgia. All were lodged in private homes, and used the same swap arrangement with the airliner for the return journey.

Mr. Carter suggested that all those interested should "contact Rosalynn" (his wife) who is apparently to head the co-ordination of the programme. Mr. Carter has never made a secret of the immense importance he attaches to people-to-people contacts. He even intends, as it will on the campaign trail, staying in the homes of private citizens rather than at hotels on his planned trips round the country.

There were the usual toasts and entertainment at the White House banquet. But, instead of watching the Ford's dance on to the small hours, everyone got the message last night when the Carters suddenly said: "night everybody" and went upstairs. By 11 pm the band had packed up and gone home.

Boeing's 'agents' stay secret

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

The Boeing company has won its court appeal here against making public the names of a prince and another 17 senior foreign officials to whom it paid at least \$77m to assist its aircraft sales.

Boeing, which has never conceded any wrongdoing in its payments, successfully argued that disclosure would immediately lead to such an association in the public's mind. The United States Securities and Exchange Commission, which is investigating the American company's unreported overseas payments, had first sought a subpoena for disclosure, then abandoned the action.

However, several names were made public in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, which suggests that a new wave of investigations is emerging in the government investigation. This is that the payments were not always for commercial purposes, but were, partly, Central Intelligence Agency rewards for favoured politicians overseas.

The paper names one Boeing agent in Saudi Arabia as a relative of the country's royal family. It reports that in Iran, Boeing retained as an agent a relative of the imperial family.

In London, the *Wall Street Journal* says the company "paid huge commissions to another Middle East power broker considered friendly".

Boeing officials insist that "in our overseas commercial sales activities we operate entirely as a private entity and not as an arm of American policy or diplomacy".

However, other links between large American companies and the CIA are on record. There is the ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation) involvement with the CIA in an attempt to prevent President Salvador Allende coming to power in Chile. There have also been revelations of frequent close connections between the Summa Corporation, owned by the late Howard Hughes, and the CIA.

Dr Coggan continues

Solomons tour

Honiara, Solomon Islands, March 2.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, and his wife sailed for the island of Santa Isabel, third call on his week's tour of the Solomons.

Murder inquiry chairman quits in Congress clash

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

Mr. Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House of Representatives committee on the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, has resigned.

In a letter to the Speaker, Mr. Tip O'Neill, he again denounced Mr. Richard Sprague, the committee counsel, whom he tried to dismiss last month.

The rest of the committee then refused to support him. Mr. Gonzalez has been at home in Texas, with influenza for the past two weeks. His committee staff has not been paid for two months because he refused to sign pay vouchers and because the House comptrollers

want to enforce a House ruling cutting the committee's budget.

The trouble started when Mr. Sprague announced that he would need \$6.5m (£3.8m) for the first year's operation, and continued in a series of public quarrels between Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Sprague and between the committee and the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives has been given until the end of this month to pass the House's satisfaction with the investigation into the two murders should be reopened. On its performance so far, the committee stands no chance of doing so. Its proceedings have collapsed into farce.

assassinate Mr. Papadopoulos, the Greek dictator. After the fall of the military regime and after many years in solitary confinement, he was elected a member of the Greek Parliament.

He was fatally injured on May 1, 1976, when his car swerved out of control and crashed into a wall on a road leading out of Athens. The Panagoulis family and the opposition press insisted that his death was not accidental.

However, the judicial inquiry ruled that the Panagoulis family and the opposition press had played a role in the investigation. Mr. Stellas was charged with manslaughter through negligence after presenting himself to the authorities to admit that he was driving the car that had collided with Panagoulis' car.

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Man responsible for controversial deal hates the EEC 'Red millionaire' cashes in again

From Paul Martin

Paris, March 2

M. Jean Baptiste Doumeng, the man responsible for the sale of the EEC's surplus butter stocks to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, is a self-confessed later of the Communists. Indeed, the ebullient French "red millionaire" is once said to have remarked that the EEC should be "liquidated".

Born an impoverished shepherd boy and now at 57 a committed Communist whose success as a capitalist has earned him the reputation in France as the "super businessman", M. Doumeng is fond of such ex-statement. But rather than being part of a sinister plot against Western Europe, his butter deal is just one of a long list of profitable transactions through which he has cashed in on his capitalist and communist natures.

During one visit to Moscow, he met Nikita Khrushchev and they became friends. Finding

common cause in their peasant origin, they struck up a relationship which was to serve their mutual benefit and that link with the Russian leadership continues to contribute to the Doumeng fortune. Today his company, Interagra, which handles the East-West deals, is a vast concern.

Broad-shouldered with paunch and jowl, M. Doumeng does funnel some of the profits he makes from his operations into the French Communist Party, but he likes the good life and has no ideological qualms about living it. A fine stable is the result of his passion for horses and he runs his own football team, appropriately named Red Star.

His dealings with the Eastern block began in a big way when he acted as the go-between for the sale of grain. This was followed by Soviet tractors for Algeria and then Algerian wine for the East. Then there were the celebrated deals in 1973 for

200,000 tonnes of surplus European butter and 250 million litres of wine for the Soviet Union.

Since then the trade has been steady although M. Doumeng has kept out of the headlines until the present EEC butter deal. Characteristically he has remained silent, and indeed Interagra has been emerged as the villain of the piece.

M. Doumeng has come a long way from his humble beginnings, as many French critics point out, probably got more out of communism than he put into it. Nevertheless, friends maintain that his political commitment is sincere and that the misery of peasant life framed his thinking.

But what constantly emerges is the image of the capitalist, despite his reported remark when appointed by the then Communist minister as the administrator for Savings: "I have never seen a cheque in my life."

Communists draw up joint aims

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, March 2

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian communist leader, and M. Georges Marchais, his French counterpart, arrived in Madrid today for the Euro-Communist summit meeting. They were driven to their hotel in a five-ton bullet-proof car, a present from the President of Romania to Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish communist leader.

Señor Carrillo made two trips in it to the airport as his French and Italian colleagues arrived separately. M. Marchais said that he had brought with him a preliminary declaration with which to start the talks. He was ready to sign a joint communiqué on freedom. Its contents aroused curiosity in view of the moves against dissidents in Eastern Europe.

After lunch the three leaders began talks on the communiqué which is not expected to contain a new definition of Euro-Communism but rather a setting out of the three parties' common aims in establishing socialism in a pluralist society.

Señor Carrillo denied that there were any important differences between the three parties. They all shared what he called "a common idea and the will to cooperate". There were minor security measures at the airport. Outside the hotel, however, where the Spanish Communist Party has taken over most of the third floor, there were several car loads of riot police.

The meeting is protected by the Government but a cocktail party tonight was banned. It has been replaced by a dinner for leading members of the opposition,

World-wide action may be taken against Globtik

Continued from page 1

their radio officer from the Venice and from another Globtik ship.

Mr. Nevin said that when an official from his union got on board the Venus yesterday, he had found the master, Captain Timothy West, a prisoner in his own cabin.

Mr. Nevin said: "The captain was not allowed out and there were two thugs standing outside his door." The captain had said he had ordered the boarding party to stay ashore, but they had taken no notice.

He said the captain insisted that the Filipinos had not offered any violence, had not carried any weapons, and had always obeyed safety instructions.

Mr. Nevin said the captain had now been relieved and was being replaced by a Captain McInnes, from the Isle of Skye. The union leaders said there was no question of a mutiny under British law and crew entitled to collective action while in a port. They bitterly condemned Mr. Tikko's "strong arm" tactics and Mr. Slater said: "Today has been a day of shame for the British maritime industry."

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), which is trying to coordinate international action against the Venus, said they were investigating possible legal action for assault by the men hired to take over the ship.

Mr. Charles Blyth, the ITF general secretary, said they had relied on the French authorities, who had abdicated respon-

sibility for keeping law and order in Le Havre. They were now working with the French unions to prevent the ship sailing, and they had affiliated unions all over the world who could take part in any action against Globtik.

He said they were seeking a pay agreement for the Filipinos which would be an able seaman \$53 (£32) a month compared with the \$220 a month he said Mr. Tikko was paying.

The union leaders strongly rejected Mr. Tikko's accusation that the strikers had endangered the safety of the vessel, and Mr. Nevin said the real danger had come from the boarding party carrying things like pickaxes.

He said if one of these had been dropped, it could have caused sparks which might have led to a disaster.

There was an added threat last night that British dockers could join in any action against Globtik. Mr. Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the union's council would give all assistance to the Venus crew.

He said the council expressed its disgust at the situation and condemned the news agency for taking place shortly after midnight yesterday when the ship was stormed by 38 Britons hired by the company.

Mr. Tikko maintained that he would have no trouble in taking his ship out of Le Havre. He said there were plenty of British officers available and that he already had the four main ones standing by, ready to go aboard.

More peacefully. More than 10,000 staged sit-ins at town halls and parish churches last weekend.

The clamour for an amnesty has reached such proportions that even Señor José María Belloch, the new government-appointed civil governor of Guipuzcoa, has committed himself to the cause. He told representatives of Basque pro-amnesty committees earlier this week that he was prepared to resign if there was not a wider amnesty.

The proposal to expel some prisoners, who may very well turn out to be the same 15 as those recently put on a bargaining list by the urban guerrilla group Grapo, will present problems. It is illegal to exile anyone without his permission. And such a measure is bound to enrage the country's ultra-conservatives. —Reuter.

Spain 'to free all political prisoners soon'

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, March 2

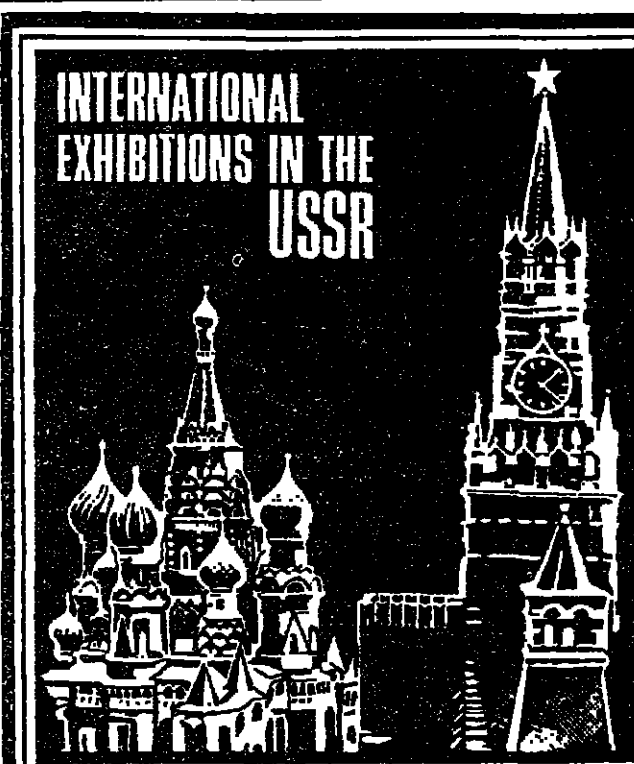
All political prisoners, including those involved in crimes of violence, will be freed from Spanish jails within two weeks, according to Señor Martín Fernández Palacios, who represents the Basque province of Vizcaya in the Cortes (Parliament).

He said last night that of the estimated 200 prisoners, most of them sentenced for belonging to the Basque separatist organization ETA, 15 "directly involved in crimes of blood" would be expelled from Spain. Señor Fernández Palacios said he was asked by Interior Minister, Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, to take the pulse of the Basque country over certain issues, including the amnesty problem and the possibility of a trip to the area by King Juan Carlos. The king

has visited most areas of Spain, but not the Basque country.

Señor Fernández Palacios apparently spoke with the knowledge of the minister, although the exactness of his words has caused some surprise in government circles. A senior official close to the Interior Minister said the amnesty granted by the king last July would be widened, but whether a pardon would be given to everyone had not yet been decided.

The official said the decision would be announced within a "short time". There have been reports that the government will release most prisoners by Easter Sunday (April 10), which is the Basque national day. The campaign for a total amnesty has started again after a lull. Basques at first headed to the Government's ban on demonstrations, but now they are protesting again, although



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مكتبة الأصيل

Johannesburg's white voters give their verdict on apartheid

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 2

White voters went to the polls in Johannesburg today in the most important municipal election in the city's history. The results will indicate whether the post-Soweto mood of the 220,000 registered voters is in favour of greater racial integration or continued separation.

The elections were a three-way contest between the National Party (NP), which rules the country, the United Party (UP), which has traditionally run the city, and the liberal Progressive Reform Party (PRP), which increasingly looks like taking over from the UP as the nation's main opposition party. The real battle of the election campaign was between the UP and the PRP.

Canvassers indicated that the PRP, campaigning on an integrationist ticket, could well take control of the city council. Mr. Alf Widman, the party's leader in Johannesburg, predicted that the PRP would gain an absolute majority in the city council. Previously the UP held 17 of the 27 seats, the PRP 16 and the NP 10. One was held by an independent and three were vacant.

A PRP victory would be a clear indication that an important part of the country's white electorate believes that the Government should rethink its segregationist policies in the light of last year's township unrest. However, it would not mean there was a nationwide swing to the PRP.

The PRP has always drawn its main strength from middle-class English-speaking voters living in Johannesburg's affluent northern suburbs, and to a lesser extent from similarly inclined people in Cape Town and Durban.

The NP's power base on the other hand lies with Afrikaans speakers living in working-class suburbs and the countryside. There is no sign whatsoever that their support for the Government's race policies is wavering.

Race rather than roads or other local issues was the main theme of the election campaign. The UP, led by Mr. Francois Oberholzer, fought the election on *Swart gevaar* (black peril) and the maintenance of the status quo—which means the continuation of separate facilities for blacks and whites.

Typical of the UP's campaign was an election advertisement in yesterday's newspapers emphasising that the party opposed racial integration in transport, residential areas, swimming baths, schools and the city council.

The opening of swimming pools to all races in white areas would create "immediate and serious friction", the advertisement said. The integration of schools would create "endless and needless racial trouble".

The PRP, on the other hand, had called for the desegregation of buses, swimming pools, schools and restaurants and the election of a multi-racial city council. However, Mr. Widman has acknowledged that central government policy would limit the extent to which the party's reformist policies could be put into effect.

The PRP's integrationist platform is expected to have the support of the city's voteless blacks. "A vote for the PRP was a vote for the million people of Soweto", the black newspaper *The World* said in a leading article.

New invasion on the way, says Uganda leader

Nairobi, March 2.—President Amin of Uganda, said today he had received a letter from Kenya saying 2,600 American, British and Israeli mercenaries were crossing that country to invade Uganda.

At prayers in a Kampala mosque for Muhammad's birthday, the president called on all Ugandans who knew anything about a possible invasion to tell him at once.

The alleged invasion—the second in a week—coincides with expressions of concern in Washington over 240 American citizens, mostly missionaries and their families, who live in Uganda.

President Amin summoned them all to see him after President Carter's statement last week that recent events in Uganda disgusted the civilized world. After more protests from Washington, the meeting was postponed indefinitely.

President Amin said the Kenyans who wrote the letter to him reported mercenaries in plain clothes aboard an American aircraft at Nanyuki, a port of Mombasa and a US Air Force squadron stationed at Nanyuki, Central Kenya.

An American embassy spokesman in Nairobi said there were no American warships in Mombasa and no American aircraft at Nanyuki. Radio Uganda said the letter described Nairobi and Mombasa as "bases of imperialists" but the writers appealed to the Ugandan Defence Council not to take "serious action" as this would endanger innocent Kenyans.

President Amin thanked the writers for their "spirit of African brotherhood" and suggested the foreign mercenaries might be in Kenya to solve Kenya's internal problems. He did not elaborate.—Reuters.

Muldoon long-term plans for a trade agreement with the European Community

Tough politician who has lambs on his mind

From Roger Berthoud
Wellington, March 2

New Zealanders are not generally considered to be very emotional people. But about Mr. Robert Muldoon, their Prime Minister, they have extremely strong feelings. Few New Zealanders feel indifferent to Mr. Muldoon. They either love him or loathe him.

Those who dislike him accuse him of having appealed to the baser emotions of the electorate over such issues as Polynesian immigration during the campaign which swept him and his National Party to power in the general election of November, 1975. They accuse him of being arrogant and aggressive, and of lowering the tone of public debate.

Some say that this powerful built former cost accountant, who is 55, has raised the level of political consciousness of New Zealanders. Others say that he has produced an undesirable polarization of views.

He himself has few doubts about the value of his approach. "You have to be fairly positive to get the ordinary citizen to think about issues", he said in an interview in his office in Wellington.

"We have had politicians who qualify things so much that no one can understand what they are trying to say. It is very easy to do this, out of fear of antagonizing anyone. I take the opposite view."

Among those Mr. Muldoon has not feared to antagonize are black African leaders who dislike New Zealand's sporting contacts with South Africa. "My concept of the Commonwealth is not a commonwealth in which one member is black-mailed by others into changing its internal policies," he said.

"We are certainly not going to change them, certainly not in a situation like this where there is such a high degree of hypocrisy." Other members had sporting contacts with South Africa: South Africans were going to compete in the impending women's tennis and bowling tournaments in Britain. West African boxers fought in South Africa. Even at the time of the African boycott of the Montreal Olympic Games, a South African cricket team was playing on the lawn of Government House in Ottawa.

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The most important thing



Mr Robert Muldoon: Either loved or loathed.

The Canadians, he added, had made it perfectly clear they would not cancel the Commonwealth Games due in Edmonton in August, 1978. But there might not be any black African contestants.

Mr. Muldoon will doubtless be somewhat more the diplomat when he comes to Brussels, Bonn and London later this month. His main aim will be to impress on the new European Commission that New Zealand is desperately needs to retain a market in the United Kingdom particularly, and in continental Europe to the greatest degree possible".

The most important thing

was to retain access for butter, to clarify the position on cheese exports, and to underline the "absolute necessity" of retaining the British market for lamb.

"We reckon to kill something in the order of 22 million lambs a season, of which some 18-20 million go to the United Kingdom. Any diminution of that access would be disastrous to the New Zealand sheep industry."

"There is talk of an EEC sheep meat policy, and it is being pushed quite hard by the Irish, who doubtless see a role in supplying greater quantities of sheep meat. But I think it is quite inconceivable they could supply the quantities we are supplying."

In the longer term, his Government would envisage moving towards some kind of trade agreement with the EEC, a concept which some visiting ministers from member states had supported.

Slightly surprisingly, Mr. Muldoon did not see increased industrialization as the chief growth area for the economy, plumping instead for fishing, forestry and tourism, which last year attracted 385,000 visitors (60 per cent Australian, 13 per cent American).

He thought there would continue to be very tight controls on immigration for perhaps three years: the present target is 5,000. Last year there was a net outflow, partly caused by the departure of illegal Polynesian immigrants.

Then perhaps the door might be opened a little wider.

His decision, after a visit by leaders of the Peace Movement to let in a few refugees from Northern Ireland has proved controversial. "I was touched by the plight of young people who find themselves caught up in these illegal organizations, want to get out, but cannot because of threats of physical violence," he said.

"And I was greatly impressed by Mairead Corrigan and the Peace Movement. Some of New Zealand's own social problems have come from the concentration of population, including immigrant Polynesians fresh from a subsistence economy, in Auckland, a striking feature in a country relatively so empty."

Mr. Muldoon agreed that in many ways New Zealand still has many of its options open. There were some serious drawbacks: geographical isolation increased the cost of imports, important raw materials were lacking, and the home market was small, to the detriment of industry. And wealth was unusually evenly distributed. But the people were adaptable and relatively well educated.

He could have added that the country is extremely beautiful, and although inflation last year totalled 15 per cent, unemployment is at only 1 per cent. For those outside, it remains in ways a very attractive country indeed—and that is surely a source of strength.

Coexistence between rival Muslim sects at stake as rumours spread of revenge killings

Syria on edge over college murder

From Robert Fisk
Damascus, March 2

The Syrian police are still looking for a young man who walked up to Dr. Muhammad Fadel, president of Damascus University, last week and shot him at least 12 times in the head and body with a machine pistol, a few yards from the college gates.

The murder was a cold-blooded business. Eye witnesses say that, when the assassin ran out of bullets, he coolly loaded another clip into his gun and carried on firing.

After the killing he ran to a motor cycle at the roadside with another young man in the saddle, who drove him away.

Mr. Fadel was a leading jurist and one of the men who helped to lay down the constitution for the "Federation of Arab Republics" before the abortive Egyptian-Syrian unity attempts in 1958. Perhaps more important to the Syrians is that he was the motive behind the killing. What the Syrian press did not publicize was that Mr. Fadel was a prominent Muslim Alawite and a close adviser of President Assad.

The Alawite Muslim sect, which believes that Ali, the son of the prophet Muhammad, was God's incarnation, con-

prises only about 10 per cent of Syria's population. During the French mandate, they were largely excluded from government office but many found the Army still open to them.

Once the armed forces began to control the politics of Syria, therefore, the Alawites came to prominence at the expense of the Sunni Muslims who make up about 80 per cent of the population.

President Assad is himself an Alawite but has striven over the past seven years, with remarkable success, to create a unified state, unaffected, by religious divisions.

This was one of the reasons why the civil war in the Lebanon—where confessionalism had failed to heal the enormous social differences—appeared as such a threat to Syrian stability and why President Assad chose to send in his army to end the conflict.

Thus the murder of Dr. Fadel was particularly worrying for the Government and the rumours which followed his death made it even more so. On the day of his death reports began to circulate in Damascus that a leading member of the Syrian Baath Party in the city, a Sunni Muslim, had been murdered in revenge. Throughout

the next week, travellers from northern Syria brought even more frightening tales. A Sunni Muslim had been shot dead in Homs, according to one report, and several Alawites murdered in Aleppo.

The Government says the reports are lies, presumably concocted to encourage subversion. Yet the rumours represent a serious problem. In the past 18 months Syria has witnessed a return to the kind of violence and assassination that plagued its early years of independence.

One of the few vestiges of confessionalism left in Syria is the system of religious domestic courts. Sunni Muslims or Alawites anxious to arrange a divorce or deal with an inheritance may still go to their own tribunals. Dr. Fadel sat on one such court.

President Assad is now widely respected among Western diplomats and politicians as an Arab leader of growing international stature and there is no doubt that he is trying gently to lead his country towards a more positive and open society. The coming months will show whether his statesmanship can overcome the cancer which, in quite different form, broke up Syria's western neighbour with such horrifying consequences for 19 months.

Joint aims for Afro-Arab summit

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, March 2

Foreign ministers of about 60 Arab and African countries met in Cairo tomorrow to draft the agenda and make other preparations for the first Afro-Arab summit conference due to begin here on Monday.

Afro-Arab economic cooperation is expected to be a key subject of both meetings.

African states, most of which had severed ties with Israel several years ago in support of the Arab cause, are likely to seek increased economic assistance from wealthy Arab countries, particularly the oil producers. Many of the African countries are hard hit by inflation and the recent increases of oil prices.

In a move to cement relations with African countries, the Arabs have established a special \$400m (£235m) fund to help development projects in Africa.

The ministerial meeting, expected to last three days, will prepare political and economic declarations for the summit meeting.

The political declaration is expected to express support for the Arab cause, the struggle for black rule in Rhodesia, and African liberation movements, as well as denounce apartheid in South Africa. It will also stipulate that Arab and African national issues are considered joint causes for which both sides will struggle.

The economic declaration is to lay down the principles of consolidating Afro-Arab economic cooperation by creating various bodies to work out plans for development programmes.

Liberation movements from Rhodesia, Namibia (South-West Africa), South Africa and Djibouti will attend.

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The foreign ministers and heads of state will be faced with thorny inter-Arab and inter-African disputes including that between Morocco and Mauritania on one hand and Algeria on the other over the Western Sahara.

There are also strained relations between Sudan and Ethiopia over Eritrea, whose struggle for independence is supported by Sudan, as well as those between Uganda and Tanzania.

On the Arab side there are serious differences between Libya and Sudan, Egypt and Libya and Syria and Iraq.

The Afro-Arab summit will be the biggest gathering of heads of state in Egypt since the second non-aligned summit meeting in Cairo in 1964. There are proposals to convene the Afro-Arab conference every three years.

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Villagers ask Israel for aid against Palestinians

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, March 2

Christian Lebanese villagers arrived at the border fence near Metulla today and asked for "aid" from Israel. They brought with them two casualties from a shelling duel between Phalangists and Palestinians—a dead woman and an injured man.

The Lebanese proposal for a United Nations force to keep the peace in the sensitive southern border area has been greeted without enthusiasm in Jerusalem, though Government spokesmen are unwilling to comment officially until more details are known of the plan.

Privately, political observers are disappointed that Lebanon appears unwilling to accept responsibility for policing the border. They fear a United

Nations border force would be of little use unless it was of considerable strength. It would also presumably stop the work of the clinics which have been serving Christian villagers from Lebanon and would end other exchanges through the fences.

Military observers fear a United Nations force would be too weak to prevent guerrilla raids by Palestinians into Israel but might hamper Israeli attempts to mount reprisals.

Mr. Rabin, the Prime Minister, is expected to make this point in Washington next week. He is likely to tell the United States Government that Israel is reluctant to agree to a United Nations force unless the threat of border attacks is taken into account. Israel would consider an interim agreement with Lebanon if these difficulties were surmounted.

Defections seen as 'stab in back' by Mrs Gandhi

From Kuldeep Nayar
Delhi, March 2

Mrs Sumitra Kulkarni, Mahatma Gandhi's grand daughter, who is a member of India's Upper House today resigned from the ruling Congress Party and joined the opposition Congress for Democracy.

"I have come where I belong," she told reporters at a press conference on the laws of the home of Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the chairman of the party. Mr. Ram, the former Minister of Agriculture, left the Government and the Congress Party last month in protest against the continuance of the emergency.

She said she had felt so oppressed in the Congress Party about the ways things

were done that she had no option but to resign. There was no democracy within the party.

In replying to Mrs Gandhi's complaints that she had been stabbed in the back, Mr. Ram wondered if there were any politicians worth the name in the country whom she had not tried to humiliate.

"Has she not betrayed the country on many occasions in regard to the economic programme that she announced?" he asked, adding that she could hardly expect honourable people to stay loyal to her for ever.

If people find her company embarrassing and not in the interests of the country, she should not think that she was being stabbed in the back, Mr. Ram added.

London priest 'tricked into returning to Romania'

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Very Rev. Lucian Gafton, the well-known Romanian priest in London, has been enticed back to Bucharest on a false pretext and is not being allowed to rejoin his wife in Britain, according to sources in the Church of England.

Father Gafton is the official representative of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, a kind of ecclesiastical ambassador, and is also parish priest of the Romanian Orthodox congregation of St Dunstan's, Fleet Street.

He and his wife, Mrs Angela Gafton, have permanent residence status in Britain. They first came here more than 10 years ago, and their one child, a grown-up son, is also in the West.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Coggan, is understood to be personally concerned about Father Gafton's treatment, and it is believed the matter was raised when a leading Romanian churchman, Bishop Anthony, visited Lambeth Palace last year.

The British Foreign Office has been informed of Lambeth Palace's concerns, though neither the Government nor the Church of England wants to appear to be interfering in Romanian church affairs.

The main emphasis in representations to the Romanians so far has been on humane grounds: that Father Gafton has been forcibly separated from his family and friends in Britain—with the added point that he has come to be regarded in London as a first class official ambassador for his country.

Father Gafton had been hoping that the Church of England would make over St Dunstan's to the Romanian Orthodox Church, and this was being considered sympathetically.

Before he left London at the beginning of December, there had been some disagreements with a small section of his con-

gregation about parish affairs, though one of his friends suggested that this could have been the work of agents provocateurs, to supply grounds for Father Gafton's recall to Romania.

Last year a message was given to Father Gafton that his father, the Bishop of Rimnicu Vilcea, was dying. Father Gafton promptly went to Romania, found his father was quite well, and was then told he would not be allowed to return to London. Apparently no reason was given.

Since then he has been teaching "social collaboration", said to be a euphemism for Marxism-Leninism, at the Bucharest theological institute. Although the appointment at the institute is technically a promotion, one friend remarked that for an apolitical priest like Father Gafton, the job would be more of a punishment. It is also believed that Father Gafton has been kept under some sort of surveillance in Bucharest, and his private life restricted.

One fear in London is that allegations of immorality might be manufactured against him, almost a standard procedure when communist governments want to discredit a prominent churchman.

No one in the Church of England appears to know why Father Gafton has earned his Government's displeasure, if indeed he has.

One innocent explanation of his treatment is that the Romanian church feels, as a matter of policy, that its representatives abroad ought not to put down roots too deeply in any one foreign country. That theory would be put to the test if Father Gafton was allowed to return to Britain to settle his affairs, and offered another post in the West.

A close family friend said yesterday: "He went back to Bucharest against his better judgment. His father's health was his one Achilles heel. A lot of us would say that Lucian is an excellent envoy to Britain. He is Romania with a human face."

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CHRYSLER UNITED KINGDOM

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

Law Report March 2 1977

Rented Civil Service offices within 1972 freeze

Town Investments Ltd and Others v Department of the Environment

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Morris of Borth-y-segh, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Brandon of Sora and Lord Edmund-Davies

The counter-inflation legislation of 1972 and 1973 which imposed a freeze on business rents during the standstill period which ended in March, 1975, was held by a majority of the House of Lords to apply to two buildings in London leased to a minister of the Crown and occupied by civil servants, because the buildings were the subject of "business tenancies" and "occupied to the purposes of a business" within the definition in the Counter-Inflation (Business Rents) Order 1972 and 1973. The practical result was that when a lease granted by the then landlord to the then Minister of Works in 1952 expired in December, 1972, and the landlord granted a fresh lease to the Secretary of State for the Environment for a term of five years at rents more than 10 times those under the 1952 leases, the rents payable were by reason of the orders frozen at the 1952 level.

Their Lordships, Lord Morris of Borth-y-segh, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Brandon of Sora and Lord Edmund-Davies, in their judgments, considered the appeal by the Department of the Environment from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Lawton and Sir John Pennycuik) (77 All E.R. 1126, [1976] 1 W.L.R. 1126), which had been decided in favour of the landlord, Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Lawton and Sir John Pennycuik, who considered that the leases were not business tenancies and that the rents payable were those under the 1952 leases and not the lower rents under the 1972 leases. Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Lawton and Sir John Pennycuik considered that the leases were not business tenancies and that the rents payable were those under the 1952 leases and not the lower rents under the 1972 leases.

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The only issue before the House had been whether during the standstill period the relevant premises were the subject of business tenancies within the meaning of the order. That, turned on the answer to three questions: (1) Who was the tenant of the premises? (2) What was the purpose for which the premises were occupied by the tenant? And, if so (3) was the tenant's occupation for the purposes of a business carried on by him or for those and other purposes? On November 6, 1972, the leasehold title under which Keyn House was held was transferred to the Crown and the lease was transferred to the Secretary of State for the Environment. The lease was transferred to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the lease was transferred to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

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occupation by civil servants employed in the work of various government departments. In his Lordship's opinion the tenant was the government acting through its appropriate member (the minister of the Crown) or, in the term of art in public law, the tenant was the Crown.

On the second question (were the premises or any part of them occupied by the tenant?), at all relevant times the persons physically present on the premises were government servants in public law terms of art their status was that of "servants of the Crown" and of no one else. The relationship of master and servant did not exist between a minister in charge of a government department and any other government servant in the work of the department. The use of the premises by government servants for government purposes was not a business carried on by the Crown, the tenant of the premises, and his Lordship would answer that question, yes.

On the third question (was the tenant's occupation for the purposes of a business carried on by him or for those and other purposes?), the answer depended on how broad a meaning was to be ascribed to the word "business" in the definition of "business tenancy" in the two counter-inflation orders. Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Lawton and Sir John Pennycuik considered that the leases were not business tenancies and that the rents payable were those under the 1952 leases and not the lower rents under the 1972 leases.

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The mischief against which those orders was directed did not depend on who the tenant was or the use made of the premises by him but on the receipt by his landlord of a sum of money in return for what produced no greater contribution to the national wealth than it had produced before. His Lordship would, therefore, give the word "business" in the definition of "business tenancy" in the two orders a meaning no less wide than it had been given in covenants restricting the user of demised premises. That meaning was wide enough to include the purposes for which Keyn House and the North Audley Street premises were occupied by the Crown.

The Court of Appeal appeared to have attached importance to the presence of the indefinite article "a" in the reference in the definition of business tenancy to "a business carried on by him"—the tenant. Having already concluded that the relevant occupation was the Secretary of State and not the Crown, Lord Justice Buckley and Lord Justice Lawton, while appearing to accept that government activities through the various government departments might properly be described as "business", considered that neither that part of those activities carried on through a particular government department, nor those activities as a whole, could properly be described as "a business".

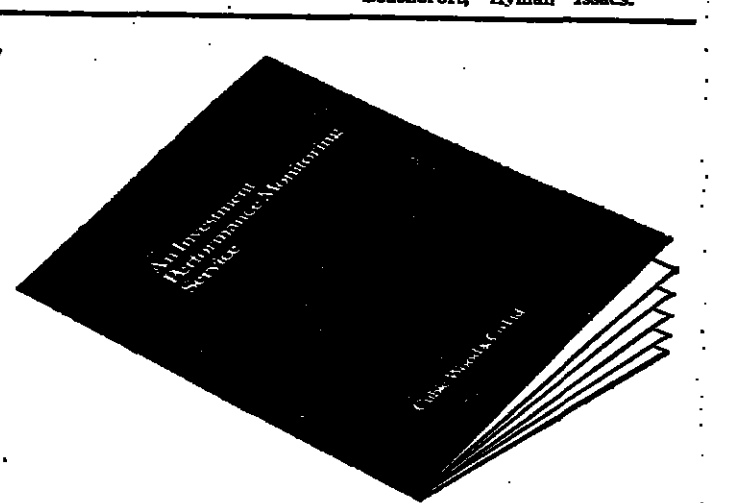
It had been said that Roger Casement was hanged by a comma, and that John Keats's mind was "smitten" out by an article. His Lordship thought that in exercising the functions of government the civil servants of the Crown were all engaged in carrying on a single business on behalf of the Crown—their Majesty's government in the United Kingdom. He did not see why the presence of an indefinite article affected the matter, nor why it was not a business carried on by the Crown on whatever premises might be used by it to accommodate civil servants employed in the various government departments, or why it was not a business for the purposes of which each of the premises was occupied by the Crown. His Lordship would allow the appeals.

LORD MORRIS, in a dissenting speech, gave his reasons for holding, on the facts relating to the premises, that in regard to each property the Secretary of State, not the Crown, was the tenant; that he did not occupy the premises; and that in respect of them there was no "business tenancy" so as to make the provisions of the counter-inflation orders applicable. In his view the Court of Appeal had come to the right conclusion.

Lord Simon delivered a speech concurring with Lord Diplock in allowing the appeal; Lord Kilbrandon gave his reasons for allowing the appeal; and Lord Edmund-Davies agreed with Lord Diplock's reasons.

No order as to the costs in the House was made.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitors; Beachcroft, Hyman Isaacs.



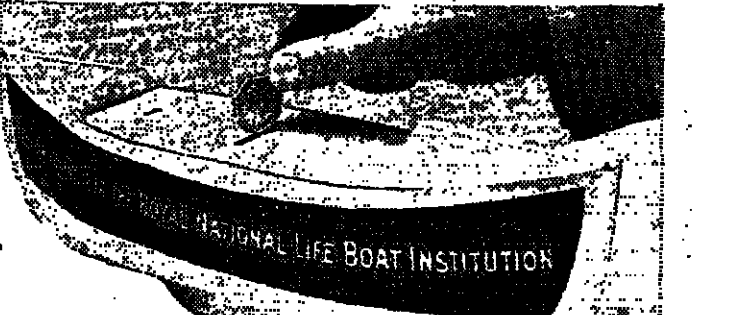
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Fashion

Highly individual fashion: Ora Morag works in Tel Aviv and likes to make special clothes which are either hand knitted or made from old fabrics bought in the flea market of Jaffa.

Here she is photographed with Aviva Pivko (Aviva means spring) in the apartment where her clothes can be bought, 24 Kikar Hamedina, Tel Aviv, the telephone number 284 42-31. Ms Pivko, who is married to an architect, also has in her minuscule boutique lovely belts and bags and jewelry, all by highly individual Israeli designers.

Right: Aviva in a waistcoat made from an old rug and new knitting. Black skirt, braided belt, silk flower to fasten, all from her boutique.

Below: Tiny tops and bikinis are made by Ora Morag from old fabrics, often embroidered, which she buys in the flea market. This is a camisole top in white tangerine.

Below right: Ora herself in a typical waistcoat (old carpet again) and tiered gypsy skirt.

Below left: Bits and pieces jumper by Ora Morag, worn by Aviva Pivko.



Photographs by Harry Kerr

By inclination and decree

Ora Morag designs clothes because she wants to. Naderzha Petrovna Lamanova designed clothes not only because she wanted to but, more importantly, to benefit her country. Morag runs a minute cottage industry which retains all the fun and satisfaction of a handwork business. Lamanova's experience, talent and taste were used to motivate a big new employment area which it was hoped would generate exports. Morag is working now in Tel Aviv, Lamanova worked in Russia and died in 1941.

In the atmosphere of the interventionist and civil wars the majority of the sewing factories in the young Soviet republic had to work for the army. Mass-produced civilian clothing was being produced but in insignificant quantities. Despite reorganization the country's young sewing industry could provide the people with mass-produced goods and satisfy their hunger for clothes. So the private tailor and self-employed dressmaker continued to be persons of importance in the sphere of costume. The primitive techniques of the factories acted as a drag on productivity, so in many cases foreign made motor-driven machinery, new style dresses and gas-torons were installed.

The first Soviet sewing factories were a modest collection as regards technical equipment and staffing. In any one factory there could be the latest electrical machines imported from America side by side with traditional manually-operated machines and workers sewing on buttons was being done by hand. There were not enough hands and workers were taken on indiscriminately, many having no previous experience of the clothing industry. There was no time to give special training, on these people, who were all ages, social classes, and religions, who suddenly found themselves dumped into the unfamiliar atmosphere of a new factory, acquired skills as they went along—at the same time adjusting themselves to a new working rhythm and to life in a working community.

These extracts are from a book called *The History of Soviet Costume* which you can buy (in Russian), from Collier's Russian Bookshop at 129-131 Charing Cross

Road. I am indebted to Charles Metcalfe, head of the fashion and textiles department of Liverpool Polytechnic for introducing me to the book and for arranging for a private translation.

Mr Metcalfe has indeed been urging Collier's to provide a full translation for sale to fashion buffs who want to know more about a fascinating and largely unexplored area of their subject, but as of writing the situation seems unresolved. Even in the first few paragraphs there are many parallels to the development of western fashion. The American ready-to-wear industry was founded on the factories and the techniques introduced to make uniforms for their civil war. The highly-devised development of a traditionally handicraft industry into a mass production era is typical of many countries even now. The lack of skilled labour and the importation of fashion machinery are particularly apposite too. When Dvay Felik, managing director of the textile side of the enormous Polgar firm in Israel, was looking all over the world for plant for the big new factory he came to England to buy finishing machines since the finishing of English clothes had always seemed to him superb. Eventually he located the models, only to be horrified by their antiquated complexity. The finishes were certainly superb, but that was because he was proudly told the men working the machines had 40 years' experience. What he wanted was something foolproof for untrained hands to work as quickly as possible—fixtures for the future, not the past. He shopped in Switzerland, which now must have around 50 per cent of the world market in looms.

But that is talking of the past ten years, while *The History of Soviet Costume* deals with the period between wars, when N. P. Lamanova comes in. She had set up her own workshop in 1885, at the age of 24, and by the time the Russians were getting round to haute couture—they looked to Paris for inspiration—Lamanova was established as one of three greatly respected, and "trusted" designers. In 1919 she produced a formidable "organizational plan" called *Studies in the industrial production of artistically designed clothes*, whose aims were to "introduce into the industrial production of clothing the beginnings of artistry (shades of Morris, Liberty, and Ruskin

thirty years before) to make contemporary dress correspond to present-day living conditions in the Soviet Union and to its many sided needs (in other words you are what you wear) to create cadres of artist instructors in costume for professional schools for the sewing industry and for the theatre (in which thought, Mr Lamanova pre-empted our polys and the RCA by a good thirty years) and to create cadres of highly qualified producer-craftsmen-industrialists." (She beats us by half a century.)

Thinking, however, is not doing, and it must be said that the illustrations of the work of this enlightened thinker on fashion, who was a real realist to her private clients, too, is more redolent of high-mindedness than novelty. In the twenties she is still looking back to Poirer of 1909, despite the formation of Russia's own magazine, *Fashion News*, in 1922.

What appeals so much to me is that although many hopes were not justified perhaps in terms of setting the trends, the attitude and determination to include dress design as something worthwhile among the arts—even in a revolutionary society which might have been expected to view the subject as too female, ephemeral, or just too bourgeoisie—is so clearly there.

In 1923 the first all-Russian exhibition of art in industry was organized by the Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1925 the four best known Russian designers, Lamanova, Mukhina, Pribylskaya, and Makarova were invited to take part in the Universal Exhibition in Paris. "All the artists prepared for this occasion with an enormous sense of responsibility," says *The History of Soviet Costume*. Mukhina was a well-known sculptor, Pribylskaya a connoisseur and important specialist in the field of folk embroidery. Lamanova and her niece Naderzha Makarova were costume designers.

"Life without industry is siph, and industry without art, brutality," said Ruskin, but as I have never been able to find in that luscious verbiage precisely where, I have never known whether he went on to say anything about creative talent. This little book says plenty about art, industry, and talent, but whether it says anything about Ruskin you can only find out if you speak Russian, or better still, persuade Collier's to produce the translation, so that we can all get a better peep behind the iron curtain.

Danish skippers get fines cut to £2,500

Fines totalling £22,000 imposed on two Danish trawler skippers were cut by Judge Cox at Plymouth Crown Court yesterday. He said he was satisfied that the violation of the 12-mile fishing limit was not deliberate. He accepted that Gudvar Loth, aged 36, skipper of the Benite Loth, and John Andersen, aged 30, skipper of the Singo, did not realize that the limits started outside from the Eddystone Lighthouse, which qualifies as an island for fishery-protection purposes. He said the court had more information before it than the "Plymouth Herald" had in the case on February 25. He added: "If we believed that these two men were deliberately poaching in this area we should not have interfered with the penalties by one penny."

There was never any dispute that the trawlers were lost. "The evidence shows that they continued to fish right up to the moment when they were contacted by the minesweeper Curlew came aboard and told them to stop."

The Eddystone Lighthouse was some way a special case. On some maps it was shown there did not appear to be any other instance around the coast where a lighthouse was the starting place of the 12-mile limit.

When the two skippers originally admitted breaking the Sea Fisheries Limits Act, 1973, Mr Loth was fined £10,000 and Mr Andersen £10,000. Both men were ordered to pay £70 costs. Their catches were forfeited.

Mr Bishop, for the defence, said: "Neither of my clients has been fishing in the English Channel before. This was a genuine mistake."

Mr Nigel Forster, aged 25, will have to spend the rest of his life paying a debt to a former girl friend who was crippled in a road crash. He was ordered in the High Court yesterday to pay £70,000 agreed damages to Miss Brenda Gregory, aged 23, who was a passenger in his car.

Because his third-party insurance did not cover passenger liability he must find the money himself. He agreed to pay £10 a week, increasing by £5 a week every two years.

Mr Forster, of Crown Lane, Ardleigh, near Chichester, Essex, said later: "This has been a long time. I have been living on my own for six years. There is no way I can ever pay this all off. I shall just have to move my planet in a few years' time."

Accompanied by his wife, Jill, Canterbury excavations

The Canterbury Archaeological Trust has launched an appeal for £200,000 to finance excavations in and around the city. Contributions may be sent to Mr David C. Hill, Yellow Lane, Canterbury, Kent.

£1m Catholic aid target

The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, which raised £761,182 in the year ended last September 30, has fixed the present year's target at £1m. Already more than £229,000 has been raised.

NEW BOOKS

An uncomfortable figure

Ramsay MacDonald
By David Marquand

(Cape, £12.50)

The most immediately successful political books are written by the winners and survivors, and as surely as Churchill and Eden booted Baldwin back to Bewdley and turned Neville Chamberlain into a malevolent and blundering marionette, so the inheritors of Labour's 1931 catastrophe have refused to forgive, forget and offer decent obsequies to the body and reputation of James Ramsay MacDonald. Until now, say Alas but cannot help or pardon. David Marquand, Labour MP for Ashfield from 1966 to 1976 and now with the European Commission in Brussels (MacDonald would have approved), has come very near to proving Auden wrong. He has written a brilliant, clear-headed and often very moving book.

It is not a hagiography; there is no special pleading, neither is it sentimental. MacDonald was an uncomfortable figure: no way round that. The first point in Mr Marquand's

favour is that he places MacDonald entirely in the context of his own time and resists the easy temptation to view him through the hindsight—slump, unemployment, public spending cuts, coalition talk and all of ours. He is by training an historian. The second is that, having elected to work on an enormous narrative frame, he fills it (apart from the usual beginner's tendency to use three illustrations where one would do) wisely and well.

Looking at his 800 pages and remembering the (I think) 1,200 devoted to Baldwin by Keith Middlemass and John Barnes, I had feared that the size of political biographies was coming to be dictated inversely by the poverty of their subject's lasting contribution to the national life. Unfair: nobody who reads Ramsay MacDonald could fail to be made aware of two things we had been carefully taught to forget—that in the painstaking development of Labour as a political and parliamentary force, in the supplanting of Liberalism as chief opposition to the Tories, MacDonald was the central figure; and that, at the peak of his popularity between 1924 and 1932, he enjoyed a greater per-

sonal following than any twentieth-century British politician except Churchill. His rhetoric was accessible and exciting, while his Scots sobriety reassured Liberals who looked nervously beyond Labour to Moscow. He believed all his life that Labour should be a party united by like opinions, not confined to the interests of one class. He was the King's favourite Prime Minister and three times at least George V begged MacDonald to remain when he would otherwise have resigned. ("You have kept up the dignity of the office without using it to give you dignity," he observed, rather cleverly for a plain old king) and Mr Marquand thinks this may have been decisive in 1931.

With that kind of following, with Lloyd George continually discrediting himself and Asquith down for the last time, there is no saying what MacDonald might have done. But by a very British irony, Britain's first Socialist Prime Minister while commending "a rebellious spirit" did not believe in social revolution at all. In many ways a Victorian (with touches of Gladstone and Peel, if not, as *The New York Times* wildly acclaimed, of Damon) he did believe in Darwinian progress, in what Mr Marquand calls an "evolutionary utopianism": once you removed the fear and the want from men, there would be no wickedness and no class war.

Socialism was society's supreme form and would evolve not out of Capitalism's collapse, as most believed, but from its success. The trouble was, of course, that during the years when MacDonald led the country (1924 and 1929-35) capitalism was not having much success, and evolutionary utopianism even without the unprecedented crisis of the Depression and the Party split over reduced unemployment benefits, never had time to get off the ground.

Mr Marquand shows conclusively that MacDonald did in 1931—placing, as he believed, the crisis of the country before his immediate

loyalty to the Labour movement—was foreshadowed in his earlier and lesser known stand of August, 1914, when he refused to join other Labour members in supporting a war he believed to be unnecessary and unjust, resigning the leadership for the next nine years. It was a brave thing to do. He attacked the war throughout and welcomed every initiative for peace, including (but not for long) the Russian Revolution. Horatio Bottomley's *John Bull* called him a traitor, a coward and (which was true, since they had troubled to find his birth certificate) a bastard.

In all of this, as in all things, he seems to have stood alone. After the death of his marvelous young wife, Margaret, in 1911, together with that of their young son, David, and MacDonald's mother, Annie Ramsay, there was never a day of triumph or despair when he was not with them by his side, and briefly recorded the sense of loss in his private diary. (He had, and was close to, four other children.) He never belonged to any mainstream of the party and made little effort to convert touchy and difficult colleagues like Henderson and Snowden to an appreciation of his views.

He was maliciously attacked for his pleasure in high ceremonial and what seems to have been innocent and consoling friendships with a series of aristocratic women; Beatrice Webb considered his suitings much too fine for a Scot from the Moray Firth. He got his own back, though: "Interesting point is," he noted tersely in an article of Sidney Webb's in *Political Quarterly* (1932) "that I alone am blamed and that reason for my downfall is flattery. Whole Webb's diplomacy has consisted in flattery and so they have come to see no other influence in life."

MacDonald had a marvelously sardonic sense of humour which is particularly bracing once the blood of brotherhood is cleared away. He was a flash and fly through the life in the manner all too familiar today. And this is the ace up



MacDonald in 1900

Mr Marquand's sleeve: he has written the first full-length biography based on MacDonald's own papers—1,600 files of them now in the Public Record Office—and the diary in particular is a discovery of importance and delight. MacDonald wrote rather well—a trifle "finely" and Celtic-rhymed at times, to be sure, but never, in the many entries which enrich this splendid book, is he dull.

As a self-portrait, the diary is remarkable: touching, funny, morbidly affectionate, bitter, and frequently unexpected. "I might have been a memory dis-

embodied," he wrote after his final retirement from politics in 1937. "Dining with Lady Grant, Robbie and Malcolm in the train north, I kept wondering who I was and how I would wake up next morning." Five and a half months later Labour's first (and last?) national leader was dead. Mr Marquand disdains both posterity's black cap and the sentimentalism of rehabilitation. He prefers to tell us more about MacDonald than we have ever known before and rarely diverges from a central study that is enthralling, sympathetic and scrupulously just.

Pied piper parson

Dick Sheppard
By Carolyn Scott

(Hodder & Stoughton, £4.95)

The first and official biography of Dick Sheppard was so overconscious of the magnitude and difficulty of his task that he produced a laborious volume which attempted to treat the subject psychoanalytically. This so effectively discouraged others from essaying the task, that 40 years after his death, though the thousands who lined the streets of London to see his cortege pass have often talked of him, and his name is still familiar to many, few now have any clear idea what manner of man he was.

Dick Sheppard had something of the Protean character which Paul claimed, that of being "all things to all men". His personal impact on his own age was unique. It was not merely that he seemed to know everybody; rather that everybody knew him in one aspect or another. When radio came, no voice was better known or more listened to. Neither his appearance nor his voice was particularly remarkable. Yet he was the Pied Piper of those days. He attracted multitudes and could lead them anywhere. He was an enchanter, a kindler, a Prometheus bringing the fire from heaven. He was also a parson bursting out of ecclesiastical grave-clothes, as well as a well-dressed man about town, very much MCC and I Zingari. But what he was essentially could not easily convey. How is one to define and interpret an incarnate spiritual force pouring its energy away into a bottomless sea of gratitude?

Carolyn Scott has certain obvious advantages over those who knew Dick Sheppard well, but dared not attempt a biography of him. She is a writer to whom he was never even *vox et proterea nihil*. Though her book may not be regarded as describing the full status of a biography, yet in a remarkable way she has created an effective evocation of what manner of man he was; and indeed, she conveys a vivid and

true impression of him which the official biographer never managed.

She achieves this by using a method of factual reportage in which narrative and comment are throughout subordinated to allowing the subject's own writings and speech to express the man himself—a difficult technique of writing which she has successfully brought off in this instance largely because it fits the subject. Dick Sheppard's was not a life to be recorded in smooth euphuistic prose. He was spontaneous, unpredictable, spirit-driven, Miss Scott's rapid reportage style, whether by accident or design, admirably communicates the passion and frustration of the man as he was, Nelson-like in the frailty of his physique and the greatness of his spirit.

Was the latter part of his life an unhappy failure? He had spent much of it battering himself against the imperious Established Church, and in the process omitted to repair his domestic life in repair. His forlorn hope, the Peace Pledge Union, brought him more antagonists than allies. He died sadly alone. Carolyn Scott's readers may draw from her reporting of these facts the impression of a tragic figure. It so, this would be far from the truth, and, I imagine, from his intention.

Saints and prophets are more than most mankind, born to trouble, both to make and to suffer it. They are therefore notoriously short-lived. It is not least because they are devoted to serving the eternal joy that nothing earthly saddens or defeats them. The clothing of Dick Sheppard's soul joy and was undoubtedly woven fine. The consistency emerges through out Carolyn Scott's book, which her clear and fulfilled intention is to bring into the consciousness of her own contemporaries "a burning and shining light" of yesterday. It well has she done her task in these pages, "he, being dead, yet speaks".

Joseph McCulloch

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Old complexes

The Arabs
By Peter Mansfield
(Allen Lane, £8.50)

The Arabs and the English

By Sari J. Nasir
(Longman, £7.50)

Paul Rand Dixon, of the United States Federal Trade Commission, recently apologized to the National Association of Arab Americans for having called Ralph Nader "a dirty Arab". This could, he admitted, "be interpreted as a derogatory reference to Mr Nader's ethnic background or to others of Arab descent", and he deeply regretted it. Refusing to apologize personally to Mr Nader, however, he told the *Washington Star*, "I understand there are Arabs who are not dirty, but Nader is dirty".

One can often read or hear blatantly racist remarks about Arabs from people who would die of shame rather than make the same remarks about West Indians, Africans or Pakistanis.

At first sight this is paradoxical. Arab civilization has been closer to that of Europe and should be much more readily intelligible to Europeans. How then has so much mistrust and misunderstanding arisen?

This question is considered in both the books under review, although Dr Nasir's is much the more limited in scope. His theme is the image of the Arabs as presented to the English, from the early Middle Ages to the present day. He quotes a series of colourful descriptions by English scholars and travellers, and devotes a long concluding section to the presentation of Arabs in successive decades of this century.

Predictably enough, he attributes some of the modern distortions to the influence of Zionism, but this factor is not unduly emphasized. What has caught his attention is the romanticized image of the Beduin and the desert which prevails in so much of English writing about the Arabs, and the patronizing, imperialistic attitude which so often lies thinly concealed beneath it. Very few English writers any time for Arabs towards people, except in so far as they conformed to the traditional image of the Thousand and One Nights. As the Beduin culture declined and towards modernizing and nationalistic movements thrust themselves forward, so did the English disillusionment set in.

Peter Mansfield reaches the problem at the end of a masterly survey of Arab history and a gazetteer of the modern Arab states. His book itself, if widely read in the English-speaking world, could do much to correct the distortions of which he complains. He too concedes a certain role to Zionism, but quickly adds that "it is not by any means the only cause of misunderstanding between the Arabs and the West". In his view, "the truth is that the struggle between Christianity and Islam, which has never really ended, although it is being fought on different battlefields and with new weapons".

The anti-Islamic prejudice which, he says, "has gone deep into our subconscious" he attributes precisely to the fact that in the early Middle Ages Islam and Arab civilization were so close to Christianity that they posed a very serious challenge to it. Medieval Christians could have dealt with straightforward barbarism or an outright denial of Christ. But a civilization in many ways superior to their own and a religion which claimed to have incorporated and surpassed Christ's teaching they found psychologically intolerable.

In this country the economic power acquired by the Arab oil-producers at a moment when we ourselves are in economic decline has reawakened an old inferiority complex which sometimes shows itself in unbecomingly test of our own civilization's real strength will be our ability to overcome this complex, and to look the Arabs in the eye without fear or favour. Mr Mansfield's excellent book can show us the way.

Edward Mortimer

Lions and ostriches

The Great Boer War
By Byron Farwell
(Allen Lane, £7.50)

"Nothing," said Leopold Amery in *The Times History of the War in South Africa*, "is more astonishing than the contempt the Boer generals showed for their opponents, except the fact that the contempt was almost invariably justified." Since his classic seven-volume work appeared this acerbic view has become an orthodoxy. If the British soldiers in the First World War were lions led by donkeys, in the South African war they were lions led by ostriches.

Accustomed to slaughtering hordes of fuzzy wuzzies with Maxim guns, which we had got and they had not, these courageous but foolish creatures eschewed new military knowledge and buried the heads of their horses in the sand of Waterloo. *The Times History's* account of the early part of the war is, indeed, almost enough to persuade one that the expression "military mind" is a contradiction in terms, though Amery, based in Roberts' War Office, took a more lenient view of later stages. But his exposure of Buller's and Warren's self-stiffling manoeuvres on the Tugela is quite enough to explain why it was rumoured among the Boers that to fire at an enemy general was a capital offence.

Like every work on the subject since Amery's *Colossus, The Great Boer War* stands in its shadow. The blurb-writer's shadow. Byron Farwell has produced "a definitive history" is not only self-congratulatory, it is a piece of ineptitude matched only by the editor's inability to correct his author's spelling. Mr Farwell is a most modest. He aspires not to write a conventional military or political history but to describe "a great human drama that encompassed, as Jan Smuts said, 'a vast tragedy in the life of a people'". In this he has succeeded admirably and, if he has increased our knowledge of the war little and our understanding of it less, he has written a vivid, colourful and stylish book, much only here and there by obtrusive Americanisms. He has an eye for detail and an ear for anecdote, though he omits my favourite, surely a tale for the times—before the going was too general was so poor that its Postmaster General was paid his salary in stamps.

Above all Mr Farwell takes

a delight in dancing on the graves of the reputations of British generals. They make a bizarre collection: the bloated Buller, with his baggage-train full of kitchen equipment; the monocled Warren, who was so concerned about the safety of his oxen; the insomniac Buller, who was roused to fury by the sight of a sleeping man; the dapper Roberts, with his aversion to cats; the ruthless Kitchener, described (in an unpublished letter written by Walter Guinness as "the most talented murderer (of his own men) the war has produced"). For their epitaph Mr Farwell quotes Schiller: "Against stupidity the very gods themselves struggle in vain".

He turns to the Boers with relief. They were mostly coarse, narrow, ignorant farmers with a literal faith in the Bible—Krugers assured the American circumnavigator, Joshua Slocum, that the world was flat. Yet these magnificent fighters made fools of the best British professional troops. Their rifles were superior, as was their marksmanship, and they were quicker to adopt new methods. They also starved better than their enemies. Mr Farwell aptly compares them to Mao Tse-tung's guerrillas—fish swimming in the sea of the population. Kitchener won by draining the sea.

And yet, and yet... one does not wholly believe any of it. This is caricature history, entertaining and revealing but also one-dimensional and partisan. Amery's imposing portrait is infinitely more convincing, not merely because it is so detailed and sprang from such an immediate knowledge of his subject, but because it is informed by an intellectual power which has never subsequently been brought to bear on the South African war. But even Amery's interpretation was tendentious and his angle of vision was limited. Byron Farwell's book is *The Times History* seen through a glass lightly and as such it adds notably to the *Goodbye Dolly Gray* tradition. However, what the Boer War now needs is not more popular chronicles repeating each other's glosses on *The Times History* but a serious reappraisal by a powerful, independent mind. If Amery demonstrates one thing about the South African war it is that preternatural intelligence is required by the commentator if he is to explain, or explain away, the preternatural stupidity of the participants.

Piers Brendon

Unhappily ever after

Spend, Spend, Spend
By Vivian Nicholson
and Stephen Smith
(Cape, £3.95)

In 1961 Keith and Viv Nicholson won £152,319 on the pools. Now the money's gone, Keith is dead and so are two of Viv's subsequent husbands. "If we hadn't won the Pools," she moans, at the end of this quite extraordinarily depressing and unedifying book, "we'd have been in there and we would have had the front-room furnished by now." There is 113 Kershaw Avenue, Castleford and maybe she would maybe she wouldn't because when she and her husband were fortunate she had already been married earlier in the book she writes of that time "it was just

desperation". Earlier still she writes about her father discovering some love letters and beating her up. "This mucky whore," he shouted at her.

Still, if life was grim before the money came it can't honestly be said to have improved afterwards. The money was blued on drink, American cars, a luxury bungalow called the Ponderosa, an American tour and race horses. One night she consumed two whole bottles of Drambuie (of all things). A new life in Malta ended in disaster when the popular press (never far away) revealed that she was going to open a strip club and defy the Pope. Viv was sad about that. "I'm a Christian," she declares, "I wouldn't knock the Pope or anyone else's faith because I believe in religion a lot, I think it's morally wrong to knock it."

Her last husband died of an overdose. He had been a main-line drug addict and the psychiatrist said he had a mental age of eight.

All this is told in words based on fifty hours of tape recorded interviews with her co-author—an extension incidentally of a shorter interview which appeared in a more general book about pools winners. An attempt has been made to retain what is referred to as "conversational immediacy". Thus, "I used to run like bleed hell down the street, whoooooomph!" and "he was mad with me, and pissed as well, which didn't make things better." Words like "bleeding" recur frequently along with colloquialisms such as "me aunt" and "our Geoff" and literally rendered speech. "That's not a

right arse on thee' my father said to me one day, 'that's a book which has leapt from tape to page, with little evidence of intervening polish or reflection."

At the end it is very sad to see so much dissipated life and squandered money and in a sense you can argue that the sudden access of wealth was what made the difference between all this and living happily ever after. Well, I don't however think I can argue it very far. If you're drunk it doesn't make much odds whether you're drunk on Telly's mild or champagne, and you can be as violently miserable in Allerton Bywater as in Los Angeles. £152,319 could have made Viv a very happy woman but she just wasn't that sort of person.

Tim Heald

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Richard Harris on Tokyo's attitudes to the western world

Trade: just one reason why Japan feels neglected

Studying Japanese feelings about their imbalance of trade with Europe is a reminder that international relations are often marred by the imbalance of feelings as between one country and another. The relations may be of more concern on one side than on the other. This, too, is an aspect of Japan's unresolved relations with the western world and following from that with the world at large. Resentment at being made the scapegoat of Europe's trading problems is emphasized by the feeling that Europe takes insufficient interest in Japan or, in extremes, looks upon the Japanese as offensive outsiders.

There is one extreme Japanese resort to this which one can sometimes hear. Who do these Europeans think they are? They are of no importance in a world dominated by the United States and ours is the economy second to the

United States in its world importance. We are partners of the United States and intend to remain so. Contempt as well as anger can thus enter into Japan's attitude to Europe.

This is a minority view, contradicted by—to take one example—the flood of Japanese university students who visit European countries in their vacations, some of them regarding tourism as fashionable and serving shallow purposes perhaps but many more genuinely wanting to come to grips with a culture with which they are becoming familiar in so many ways through Japan's own unhindered cultural imports from the West—books, music, art, fashions, food. Tokyo is full of it.

Ask questions about the Japanese as wholesale importers of overseas culture and the reply will be that they have always been importers while remaining absolutely and consciously Japanese. Was their first civilizing effort not the importation of the written word

from China—characters, ideas and the rest that made Japan a part of the civilization of East Asia, sharing with Korea and Vietnam in the Confucian society and political assumptions that governed China? However much Japan's historical course has been her own, as much resistant to China as respectfully studying Chinese ways, the Japanese by their own behaviour towards them plainly look upon the Chinese and the Koreans as people akin to them in ways that the Russians or Thais or Malaysians are not.

East Asian civilization has thus been for centuries past a cultural zone of which Japan was a part. Moreover, in the past century the reaction of all East Asian countries to western incursion was similar: they were defending a civilization which they deemed to be superior to anything the West had to offer. Since that mid-nineteenth century "shock" Japan's course has been very different from China's how-

ever, and by now, in Japan, it is only an older generation that conserves the ancient respect for China. To a younger generation—all the under-forties—China seems alien, boxed in its revolutionary jargon, incomprehensible in some of its international behaviour, far too backward in its economic development to be even comparable to Japan.

Admitting this, admitting too the postwar American occupation, the constitution drawn up by Americans, the security treaty serving Japan's protection and above all the economic growth of the past two decades that has fastened Japan irremovably into the western world's economic system, it is startling to hear a Japanese official complain of his country's isolation, adding the observation: "We have no natural partners in proximity to our shores."

The impression thus given is of Japan as the uneasy immigrant, in flight from the greater East Asian dream,

clutching at the West for support and understanding, desperately seeking unqualified acceptance. The isolation comes partly from the island condition—something the British should understand, though the British have been much more involved with Europe than Japan has been with the Asian mainland throughout its history. Even the possibility of emigration towards an association with the West by moving out of their East Asian context would have been impossible had Japan been a part of the land-mass and not a group of offshore islands.

So now Japan can look at China and Russia as the two great land powers that face her and whose political cast of mind differs from Japan's. But the rejection is not enough. The seeking of full membership in the ranks of the West is not answer enough either. But why does Japan seek such identification? It might be thought that Japan's own identity is secure enough. Why is the iso-

lation insupportable for a country of 113 million people? In its continuity of undisturbed ethnic, linguistic and cultural unity no country in the world can match Japan.

The unity of Japan, the national consensus, the common sense of Japanese, actively cultivated and consciously preserved, would seem to offer enough for Japan's independence to be sustained without the backing of nearby partners and without worrying too much over relations with the western economic block.

This would seem to be fortified by the sense of enclosure Japan still relishes. The Japanese want to be understood but they do not like intruders. The foreigner/outsider and Japanese/insider view of themselves and the world is scarcely less definite in their case than in China's. This is emphasized by the fact that in Japan as in pre-communist China those who associate with foreigners (that is to say westerners) are regarded as a distinct and

acknowledged social category. Even today most Japanese families of standing would look with unease if not disdain on one among their number who married a foreigner.

Yet this self-enclosed assurance is not enough. We need a mirror for our identity, one Japanese critic has written, instance France and Germany as two countries that have lived for centuries side by side, closely observing each other and thus historically accustomed to seeing their own images as reflected in the comparative mirror of the other's eyes. Only thus can a sense of identity be established. Is Japan then trying to escape all the centuries of Chinese superiority? Does the mature and successful Japan want to escape from the weight of China? And is the rejection easier because China can be classed as politically alien?

One catches the division in the Japanese mind by the evident wish for close relations with Australia and New Zealand.

A treaty of friendship with Australia was signed last year. These are western countries far removed geographically from the main centres of western culture that may be regarded in a regional sense as closer to Japan. But it will not be enough. Japan will still feel isolated, will still want the assurance of closer relations with the western world while retaining to itself its own Japanese world.

Japan is fragile—an adjective often used. Japan has not yet adopted any clearly formulated view of the world—hence the "shock" of outside events. The Japanese economy has been the first concern for thirty years, getting on with the job and not throwing their weight about, but now the trade difficulties raise questions that are not just economic. The mixture of anger at unjust treatment and unease at their own indecision adds up to a feeling of neglect. The emotions may not always be justified, but they need to be understood.

Depression: a question of taking the right kind of tablets

Although about 50,000 suicide attempts are still made every year, last year's successful suicide rate was the lowest ever recorded, despite all our current financial worries and mass unemployment. But really determined suicide attempts are based not on outside environmental realities, but on a supposed reality in the patient's own mind. Severe depression, leading to suicide, is also, for some reason, more common in the northern than the southern European climates, and is at its worst in the spring. Modern drug research has also shown that anxiety states and depressions overlap, and that both may now respond to exactly the same treatments, which are very simple and physical.

About one third or more patients attending general hospitals for physical tests of the chest, abdomen and nervous system turn out to have nothing more than anxiety or depressive states exhibiting themselves in bodily symptoms. Most are people who have coped with all life's unavoidable problems, brought up in families and shown normal amounts of courage and efficiency. Now everything is suddenly changed for them and they feel they cannot work any longer or can only do so with extreme tension and fatigue.

One person in four probably gets such states of pathological anxiety or depression, or more in his lifetime. Some people, however, seem able to go through life enduring terrible emotional traumas and hardships and never ever get really nervously upset. They are the fortunate ones who, at the other end of the scale, some collapse at the drop of an emotional hat. But every brain and nervous system has its final breaking point.

Patients suffering prolonged attacks of anxiety or depression are not "mad" as such. But if they are examined by an old-fashioned or ill-trained doctor and told that everything is normal physically, and it is a simple matter of willpower—which has so signally failed—suicide can become a real risk. The patients start to see no other solutions to their problems.

Compromise is too often reached between the critical doctor and the complaining patient by the giving of sedatives. Modern doctors are accused of dishing these out indiscriminately, but they have had to do so for generations past.

But the wrong drugs are being given by too many doctors. Anxiety and phobias are previously adequate personalities are being drenched with sedatives, even though they do so well with the new anti-

One person in four probably reaches a state of pathological anxiety once or more in his lifetime

depressant drugs. Sedatives need ever increasing doses and addiction soon develops. Anti-depressant drugs rarely need to have the dose increased, however long they are used. Treatments are becoming so simple that patients can even go and ask their doctor for the right sort of anti-depressant. If patients sleep deeply and well, despite their severe depression and anxiety, most will quickly respond to the group of anti-depressant drugs which is dangerous to eat cheese or other fermented foods. This is a small precaution to take. If the patient is waking early in anxiety and agitation, he must ask for a "tricyclic" anti-depressant, or possibly the combination of both these groups of drugs. If the doctor, by chance or ignorance, gives the cheap sleeping depression only the tricyclic group, the patient can get much worse, and there is an increased suicidal risk. If patients are going to respond to either of these groups of drugs it is generally going to be in less than a month, but they must not be stopped too soon afterwards.

Only the severest melancholics now need electric shock treatment, and once they are better future attacks of severe depression can be prevented by the simple giving of lithium carbonate. One or two in a thousand very severe cases may now need, eventually, one of the new and modified brain operations.

There is, in fact, now no longer any need for a previously normal person to remain anxious or depressed for years on end—which still happens all too often.

William Sargant

The author is Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

Who changes things, the leaders or the led?

Ronald Butt



Mr Tony Benn has recently come back to that ancient and romantic theme which proclaims the proper historic supremacy of the doings of the "people" the movement of the ordinary toilers in factories and on the land, over the tales of kings, bishops, prime ministers and (he says) big executives and even pop stars who are given too much glamour and attention.

In one way, of course, this is a statement of the obvious. Politics exist to enable life to be lived as best it can; life does not exist so that a few men and women can play the game of politics, much as one might think so from those politicians who talk nothing but politics from breakfast to bedtime.

But in the sense in which it is customarily used in political rhetoric, Mr Benn's is a false proposition which has been exploited throughout history by many of the very leaders whom Mr Benn wishes to replace.

There is, to start with, the self-evident practical fact that in a free society in which people's attention is attracted to what is naturally interesting, it is no more possible to fill the history books with accounts of the honest toil of the land or factory worker; to concentrate on how they lived or what they wore and ate (though these are interesting too) than it is to fill the newspapers with "good news".

The truth is, of course, that humanity is naturally and properly interested in the exceptional because it is the exceptional which makes the human condition change and develop—besides which it is the exceptional which represents the human achievements to which the mass of ordinary people pay some respect because these achievements are a compliment to collective humanity. And such achievements are of course largely individual.

It is, of course, the kings and the leaders, the inventors and the thinkers, who change things, whether by accident or on purpose—and the leaders include Mr Benn just as they included Gerrard, without whom the Diggers would have been nothing and John Lilburne who led the Levellers. Would these movements have existed without such leadership and the work of individuals who have inspired the philosophy of "populism" from Watt Tyler to Tony Benn?

School history books, Mr Benn thinks, concentrate too much on the traditions of conquerors, kings and feudal lords. But he is misled by the romantic overlay of what is usually thought of as feudalism with its heraldic picture of a monarch—by which time the reality of the thing was dying. For what did ordinary men in the Dark Ages put themselves under feudal obedience for if

not for their own protection, the protection which only a strong man and membership of a strongly hierarchical unit could supply?

They may have paid a high price in tyranny. They undoubtedly often found that feudal protection should also be imposed by conquest. But, allowing for differences of time and context, there is little essential difference between the protection of a feudal society, in which rights and demarcations were rigidly defined, and the protection of a modern trade union.

It is (and I mean no discourtesy by it) the role of the feudal lord or baron so utterly different from the role of the big trade union leader like Mr Jones or Mr Scanlon in relation to the individual? Mr Benn has also recently talked about the need for "a new democratic reform movement" and he sees the debate on industrial relations consequent upon the Bullock report as part of this process.

He advocates: "A diffusion of power, in which the narrow Establishment in which it is now concentrated, to eradicate and bring in democratic control." The first, and plainly the chief, reform he advocates, is an industrial franchise. "What is happening in British industry today," he asserted recently, "can best be understood as the beginnings of a struggle for the industrial

franchise. Historians looking back will inevitably compare it to the century-long battle for the parliamentary franchise which ended in 1928 with the acceptance of "one man, one vote".

"A long-term democratic perspective envisaging 'workers control' of industry is no stranger, or more frightening, than the idea of 'workers control' of Parliament, of which we now boast."

I greatly doubt whether an implementation of Bullock which led in this direction would find favour with Mr Callaghan and Mr Bealey, but that is not the main point. What is interesting about Mr Benn's notion is that it misinterprets the nature of parliamentary control. For Parliament is not, of course, controlled in all its actions by the voters whose business is simply to give it freedom to take responsibility and then themselves pronounce a verdict at the polls on how it has discharged its job.

The question of overhauling what is called industrial democracy is whether anything that could be called by that name could function other than by an almost daily calling to account of the managerial decisions by the representatives of the workers.

In the matter of industrial democracy, as in his view of the historical distinction between leaders and led, Mr

Benn is making a false contrast. What are the executives and the managers of an industrial concern except those who are, or ought to be, most competent to act in that capacity? Of course they will not be competent managers, nor decent human beings if they pay no regard to the conditions and opinions of their workforce which ought to have proper channels for making its opinions known. But in the end, the managers are appointed for a skill at their job just as the man on the factory floor has his skill and if he wishes to manage then the appropriate way to do so is to climb the ladder to a managerial appointment.

The same is roughly true in politics. Political leaders in every age, whether they led migrating Vikings, whether they were medieval barons or great Whig and Tory parliamentarians—right down to Mr Callaghan, Mr Thatcher and Mr Benn—are interesting because they are a people with a capacity for leadership and to change things, which is especially what Mr Benn is trying to do.

In every age, talented men such as he, with a legitimate interest in obtaining power in order to move society in the way that they think it should go, has sought to harness the power of the people. The leaders of the English, French and Russian revolutions proclaimed the people versus the princes, kings and politicians. But what are the leaders of revolutions, what are Mr Benn or perhaps Mr Norman Atkinson, but the would-be princes of a new order, a new establishment.

What are they if they are not the leaders whose deeds and misdeeds will be celebrated in the history books of the future?

No leader, of course, can be effective who has not latched on to a certain spirit of his time, to the kind of social or political movement that has some momentum of its own. It is an unanswerable question how far the great turning points of history are determined by leaders and accidents, and how far by inexorable predestined forces.

There is much that would be very interesting to know about the life of ordinary people in the thirteenth century; yet it is Magnus Cart who is a politically motivated and ambitious baronage, that the history books rightly celebrate. Are we really to say that we take too much notice of them? Do we take too much notice of Mr Benn in writing about his political notions today? I think not.

In verse we may celebrate the ordinary people living and partly living. In history we have to celebrate the extraordinary, the men of ideas and the leaders of the led.

Pakistan's political prophets see the Punjab as the key to power

Political tension and acrimony has evidently reached a climax in the run-up to Pakistan's parliamentary election on March 7. The main contest is between Prime Minister Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the Pakistan National Alliance, a combination of nine mainly rightist opposition parties born some weeks ago out of the parties' common hatred for Mr Bhutto and aversion to what they regard as his autocratic style of governing the country.

Though the nominal head of the alliance is Maulana Mufi Mehmood, a bearded religious Pathan from Dera Ismail Khan, who earned the distinction of ousting Mr Bhutto from his constituency in the 1970 election, it is actually the former Pakistani air force chief, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, a Kashmiri by birth, who leads the opposition.

Some 30,000,000 voters are involved in the election on the basis of adult franchise. They will elect from among 2,800 candidates the members for the 200-seat National Assembly and for the 460 seats in four provincial assemblies. Mr Bhutto himself and 80 other members of his party, including three chief ministers, have already been re-elected unopposed to their respective Houses weeks before the poll. In fact Mr Bhutto needs only 10 more seats for his party in Sind to be in a commanding majority in the assembly of his home province, and five more members to be in a position to form a government in Baluchistan, where the People's Party did not win a single seat in the last general election.

One explanation of the large number of uncontested elections in Baluchistan is that the opposition, related to participate in elections there while the large numbers of troops called out in Baluchistan to quell the 1973 revolt were not sent back to their barracks.

Partisan fights have claimed more than 20 lives and 200 people have been injured. Apart from the police, troops are reported to have been alerted to meet any serious commotion, which both sides have accused each other of trying to create in order to hide their impending defeat.

The National Alliance has upset the calculations of many political prophets about the extent of the opposition to Mr Bhutto. It has drawn unexpected large crowds to election meetings and processions, which perceptibly perturbed the ruling party.

The opposition has sought to exploit the country's economic

hardships, excessive rise in prices, heavy foreign debt burden and the fall in industrial production, the main grounds for attack on the government. Prices have risen by more than 90 per cent since 1973 and the foreign debt liability now amounts to \$6 billion. Private investment in industry has stopped and the nationalized industries have made no appreciable improvement to the economy.

But the main attack has been on Mr Bhutto's treatment of political opponents. Mr Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the opposition in the last National Assembly, and many members of the now banned National Awami Party, are facing trial on charges of high treason. Many leaders of other opposition parties have been jailed for making "objectionable" speeches. Among the imprisoned are several of those who were once very close to Mr Bhutto and who helped him to found his party 10 years ago. The opposition alleges that Mr Bhutto used government machinery and special emergency powers to eliminate political and constitutional opposition and to muzzle the press. It is suggested that he even wants to change the present form of government to give himself more powers.

Emancipation religion and birth control

Although religion should not have been an issue in predominantly Muslim Pakistan, religious feelings are being whipped up by the opposition. Air Marshal Asghar Khan has repeatedly urged crowds to muzzle the press. It is suggested that he even wants to change the present form of government to give himself more powers.

But unless there is a real upset, the Peoples Party should be back in power on March 8. It will be the vote in the Punjab which will indicate its true strength in the coming years. Punjab has 115 seats in the National Assembly, and Mr Bhutto's party has already declared, "Punjab is the bastion of power". He has apparently compromised with his erstwhile foes in the Punjab and several of his old political associates and socialist comrades have fallen by his side. There is now less talk of socialism and that should placate the majority of voters.

Hasan Akhtar

The Times Diary

And now for your entertainment

Butler. Butler looked very pleased.

It was Healey who had to follow the act, making jokes about Galbraith's stature and, less successfully, about rival schools of economic thought and the name of Milton Keynes. "When I talk about economics," he said, "I talk about people cry." He succeeded in making people laugh, and while I never make more than a wry smile, you elicit a belly laugh from time to time. Galbraith, looking as modest as his craggy face permits, allowed himself a wry smile.

Just Like That

Thank you very much. And now, the tribute to Britain's most impersonated old joke purveyor over 6 feet tall. Variety Club's lunch marked the 30th anniversary in show business of a man who started life in the shipyards, which may explain why the Titanic went down. He out-towers Galbraith by one inch, but only if he is wearing his fez and a thick pair of socks.

Everybody got his fez on?

Right, here we go, and stop me if you've heard them. Max Bygraves, the second most impersonated man in Britain and the 14th funniest, is the only man in the room wearing a set of antlers. "Hello, dear, do you know it was a stag do?" Ernie Wise who said and to Galbraith's knees, says: "He looks like an Idiot in a picture on Police Five." If Ernie was taller, he might be able to see a decent script.

Don Moody has honed his cracks to a fine edge. "His magic is his meter, his feet is his fortune, and his laugh is his problem. He is, broadly speaking, mad." He peers at the 200 guests, all issued with regulation North African headgear. "Tommy Coopers are taking over the world. Ha-ha, just like that." Moody turns to the guest of honour: "He has a profile like the coast of Scandinavia; his chin is like the north face of the Elger; Easter Island is like a Cooper family reunion."

Somebody unleashes the greatest Tommy Cooper joke in the world. "Hello, is Charlie

in?" "Charlie died last night." Pause. "Did he say anything about a tin of paint?" Do I hear silence? It must be the way he tells them. Let's have the man himself.

"We all had our ups and downs in show business, but my wife has always stood beside me. We only had one chair in the house." The nervous guffaw that is part of the act suddenly becomes real. "They told me to do a trick only if I was desperate. Can anyone lend me a handkerchief?" A guest offers his handkerchief. Cooper sets fire to it with a cigarette lighter, and presto! The handkerchief has a large burn in the middle. No, nor like that; like that.

The Stockport Express, announcing their charming child contest, suggests: "Have your child shot for Mother's Day."

For nothing

Mrs Sheila Moore, the American-born wife of the Conservative MP for Croydon Central, thinks the time is ripe for more people to take a serious interest in working for nothing. When the talk is of differentials and the fall in real incomes, this seems a perversely optimistic attitude, but she is confident enough to have written a book about it. Uncompromisingly it starts: "There has never been a better time to work for free."

"There is no doubt," she says, "that the coming problem of western civilization is that we have too much time. More people are living to be healthy and active at 75 and beyond, the four-day week is just round the corner, but when you look at the General Household Survey to find how many people are actually doing anything in their spare time, you find it is a frighteningly minute proportion."

"We all live in ruins. If you want a completely easy life with no complications and no sweat, you must find it kind of hard to get jobs which offer the satisfaction, involvement or fulfillment that they want. I have always remembered a recruitment poster for volunteers which I saw in the States: 'Work for free—the pay is great.'"

The idea that only middle-aged housewives undertake voluntary work, she says, is completely out of date. "I have nothing against middle-aged housewives. I am one myself. But there are an awful lot of students, young people, retired people, and some of the most vigorous volunteers are people who already have full-time jobs. Most people would be surprised how many secretaries, bank clerks and lorry drivers there are, for instance, giving an evening or more a week to the hospital service."

Mrs Moore herself has been a volunteer in politics ("terrific

fun"), school management ("very interesting"), a play group ("my favourite—the epitome of what contemporary volunteering should be like"), and befriending children in care. For her next self-appointed task, though she is going to write another book about leisure. Everyone should have some.

Murphy's law

Either I am desperately unlucky or long-distance jets invariably suffer bad delays—I suspect the latter. Certainly I cannot remember having made a long journey by air without being held up either getting there or coming back.

It has never, though, happened for such a bizarre reason as on the flight back from Hongkong. The British Airways jumbo, already an hour late, took the wrong turning when landing at Delhi and found itself the victim of what the captain called "a set of circumstances better known as Murphy's law."

Misunderstanding the instruction from the control tower, the pilot found himself on a runway blocked by four planes, parked for the night. You are now, apparently, allowed to drive jumbos backwards and the airport tractor which could have towed us back was out of service. The four planes could not be moved for many hours. Someone had blundered, so



the noble 200 of us had to go not to the Valley of Death but to the transit lounge at Delhi, there to pick up what scraps of information the ground staff would reluctantly vouchsafe. After resisting blandishments to buy Indian jewelry and silk scarves, there was nothing to do but sit and wait for three hours.

No cigarettes on sale, and no breakfast.

Dawn broke, and the tedium was relieved only by what I took to be a spark of humour from the person running the information screen in the lounge. From time to time he would flash on to the screen revolutionary slogans in the Chinese fashion.

Emergency ushers in an era of discipline, said one, though few passengers were by now behaving in an impatient and undisciplined way. "Work more, talk less," read another—advice being adhered to by the ground staff, who were still telling us nothing.

Finally the captain received permission from the airport authorities—fearful for the safety of their runway and other planes—to make the illegal manoeuvre of driving the jumbo backwards. After we were airborne four hours late, he told us cheerfully that this could have resulted in the plane tipping on its end. As it was, he believed it to be the farthest—150 yards—a jumbo had ever been driven backwards. Another first for Britain.

According to The Scotsman world prices of butter "are currently more than 100 per cent lower than those in the EEC".

PHS



The Rhodesian Front party has split for the first time since Mr Ian Smith became its leader but how deep disagreement goes has yet to be seen, and it would be wise to be cautious. The nine MPs who have refused the whip on the new legislation to relax racial discrimination have used harsh words, but they may merely camouflage a temporary agreement to differ formally. Mr Smith's immediate problem is to obtain the required two-thirds majority for a bill which makes constitutional changes—that is, it alters the Land Tenure Act—and he can now do so only if enough of the eight nominated and eight elected black members of parliament vote with the Government. On the face of it, it would seem absurd for the Africans to make common cause with the extremists of the Rhodesian Front to

the Fearless terms, or settle with Mr Nkomo last year. Is he now then a free man?

Mr Smith's past dogs him, and the Africans will look at the Smith new deal in the political context. If they accepted it, Mr Smith could argue that it fully meets African claims, and then urge that the "moderate" local black leaders—among whom Bishop Abel Muzorewa is by far the most important—have no reason not to cooperate in the implementation of his version of the Kissinger plan for a transfer of power to a majority government in two years. Having got that agreement, he would hope to exclude the Marxist Patriotic Front of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo from further discussions, and bring in the Americans and British to endorse the new arrangements.

Cash cropping or productivity. To finance the Kikuyu to take over the white highlands of Kenya, British taxpayers contributed grants of about £18m. This is Mr Smith's difficulty, one that would have been solved under the Kissinger plan's provisions for a large international loan to back the settlement.

The opening of commercial areas to non-white businesses will initially mainly benefit the Asian traders, who have capital. The rest of the plan indicates that social segregation would be preserved for as long as possible. For example, the whites would still have their own schools, and the injustice under which the blacks pay for education but the whites do not (beyond taxation) would persist.

THE RAPE OF THE GLOBTIK VENUS

ake an oil tanker, owned by a British company, flying the flag of the Bahamas, berthed in France, and taken over by a Filipino crew. Added a flamboyant millionaire racehorse and shipowner, a group of strong-arm toughies recruited in the less fashionable quarters of Humberstone, the trade unions, and an alleged communist plot. Mix the ingredients, organize an early morning raid, and the result is a mess. The issues involved in the Globtek Venus saga are confused, and mutual recrimination, accusation and criticism is bound to continue for some time. The tanker's future movements are equally unclear.

It is, nevertheless, possible to isolate at least some of the basic components of the intricate mass disputes. The Filipinos' case was straightforward. They claimed, simply, that they had been underpaid, pointing out that they had received a monthly salary amounting to only half of the minimum recommended by the International Transport Workers Federation. That is a respectable and influential organization which, as its name suggests, acts as a worldwide coordinating body for those employed in the transport field, including transport by sea and in airlines throughout the world.

The Government, I was said yesterday, still have under review the reported decision to commute into a pension payable from the age of sixty the tax-free gratuity which some Royal Navy and RAF aircrew have been promised at the end of their short-service engagement. There is only one acceptable outcome of that review, and that is to scrap the proposal. For if it were put into effect the Ministry of Defence would arguably be in breach of contract and certainly be in default of a plain and widely advertised undertaking.

The lump sum (£2,750 after eight years or £5,000 after twelve) is one of the attractions of that form of service in the armed forces, and it is one of the attractions of which the ministry has made much in its publicity. A man enters civilian life at the age of thirty or thereabouts with a skill, a technical training, and a capital sum to help him get going. However actuarially favorable the alternative of an inflation-protected pension from sixty may be, it does not serve the same purpose for someone who has been bank-

ing on a capital sum in the hand. It is open to the Ministry of Defence to promise a pension and not a gratuity to anyone entering on a short-service engagement in the future. It is open to it to give those who have already entered a choice between the gratuity they were promised and the proposed pension. It is not open to it retrospectively to alter the terms of their engagement for those now serving, in a way that is clearly regarded by the men themselves as being to their disadvantage.

The pressure to do so comes from the Department of Health and Social Security which appears to argue that the Social Security Acts embody the principle of an entitlement to a prescribed retirement pension for anyone who has been in continuous employment for more than five years beyond the age of twenty-one, and that the armed forces are no exception. To that department the payment of gratuities in lieu of pensions in these cases is an anomaly which ought to be ironed out. To the Ministry of Defence the arrangement is an obligation in

From Mr. M. G. P. Stoker

Sir, In your letter "Scientists must defend their rights" (February 18), you discuss the new report *Scholarly Freedom and Human Rights*, published by the Council for Science and Society in collaboration with the British Institute of Human Rights and you mention possible activity bodies such as the Royal Society. I, therefore, draw the attention of your readers to the anniversary address of November 30 last past by the President, Lord Todd, in which he set at length with the problem of freedom in science, and the role of the Royal Society. The address, which is published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, should be read in full and will not attempt to meet it here except to draw attention to the following.

The President pointed out that the persecution and sometimes incarceration of individual colleagues for political views is a simple case for mitigation, inasmuch as for severest mitigation, no worse by the fact that the victim is a scientist, rather than any other member of the com-

rather as a citizen, especially one of a country which subscribes to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights laws. The Royal Society, as such, has no special position or qualification in the human rights issue; but this will not prevent fellows, including officers, from taking action as individuals.

Lord Todd stressed, however, that the Royal Society, throughout its long history, had been directly and deeply concerned with freedom of scientific inquiry and exchange of views between scientists, irrespective of race, creed, or national boundaries. In particular, he deplored the decision of the Government to withdraw financial aid from any scientific meeting which allows participation by scientists whose governments are unpopular with the majority of member states, as a threat to the freedom of science.

The Royal Society has used, and will continue to use, its influence on governments, including our own, to remove obstructions where these can be identified. Sometimes this influence is most effectively exer-

the Fearless terms, or settle with Mr Nkomo last year. Is he now then a free man?

Mr Smith's past does him, and the Africans will look at the Smith new deal in the political context. If they accepted it, Mr Smith could argue that it fully meets African claims, and then urge that the "moderate" local black leaders—among whom Bishop Abel Muzorewa is by far the most important—have no reason not to cooperate in the implementation of his version of the Kissinger plan for a transfer of power to a majority government in two years. Having got that agreement, he would hope to exclude the Marxist Patriotic Front of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo from further discussions, and bring in the Americans and British to endorse the new arrangements.

The weakness of any such set of measures is that it would improve the situation between white and black only slowly; but if the blacks attained unfettered power in two years their government would at once drastically change the structure of white privilege.

Under Mr. Smith's plans, land hitherto reserved to white occupancy will be open to black purchase. But the blacks lack the capital to buy large amounts of it. Squatting is barred, and purchases of small plots cannot quickly assuage the discontent arising from land hunger (and land hunger among the African blacks is all the land was African from the beginning and he expects arrangements to buy out or expropriate the white farmer—irrespective of the effect on

THE GLOBTİK VENUS

affiliated to it, including the British National Union of Seamen. The fact that the Filipinos had been paid a sum less than that recommended was not in issue.

Mr Ravi Tikko, in effect the owner of the Globtık fleet, does not accept the jurisdiction of the ITF, and claims that the agreement reached with the Filipinos included many fringe benefits, such as free transport to and from Manila, and that, because the crew did not have to pay tax on their earnings, which were Bahamian based, they were as well off as if they had been paid the recommended minimum subject to tax and without the peripheral advantages. He has also alleged communist influence in the recent events, based partly on the support given by the French communist union, the CGT, to the Filipinos, and partly in his view of the politics of one of the ITF's representatives for the seaside. Ironically, the CGT is not affiliated to the ITF.

The National Union of Seamen has been concerned about the treatment of the Filipinos on board the Globtik Venus for some time, but their anger only reached boiling point after the cheap novelette drama involving the boarding party launched by the Grimsby pub-recruited

cash cropping or productivity. To finance the Kikuyu to take over the white highlands of Kenya, British taxpayers contributed grants of about £16m. This is Mr Smith's difficulty, one that would have been solved under the Kissinger plan's provisions for a large international loan to back the settlement.

The opening of commercial areas to non-white businesses will initially mainly benefit the Asian traders, who have capital. The rest of the plan indicates that social segregation would be preserved for as long as possible. For example, the whites would still have their own schools, and the injustice under which the blacks pay for education but the whites do not (beyond taxation) would persist.

Five years ago, such partial measures would have changed the climate of Rhodesian negotiations. But five years ago, the Rhodesians were not in a full-scale rebellion. Mr Smith is only able to go as far as he has, because the majority of his party can see that the situation is becoming desperate. The diehards, relying on other people's young men to continue the shooting, refuse to admit this, and want a pseudo-partheid system which (they fondly hope) would bring them under the South African imperial umbrella. It is probable that Mr Smith will see the wisdom of the repeal of the Land Tenure Act—the dismantling of Cecil Rhodes's Rhodesia—was now his last hope in a bid for western as well as South African support. It may well be too little and too late.

security force" to recover the ship from the Filipinos. Under law, Mr Tikkoo was probably entitled to take back possession of the ship, illegally held, by the means he did, but that has not diminished the anger of the unions, both British and French, who consider that the Filipinos were taking justifiable action for a just cause.

It is difficult to see how the angle can be unraveled. The IUS has announced its intention of getting all Globlink vessels backed both at sea and by dockworkers. There are only four of them, and the two biggest ply their trade mainly between countries whose workers may not be susceptible to union pressure. The threat is therefore perhaps not as serious as it may seem, although the possibility of some form of international solidarity should not be discounted, especially if the ITF uses its undoubted influence to that end. It is not easy to determine the rights and wrongs of the dispute, and all parties to it, except possibly the poor Filipinos, are likely to continue to show an extreme degree of submissiveness. The Gilbert and Sullivanesque antics of the past few days hides an element of danger which may yet have serious repercussions.

From Sir Samuel Goldman
Sir, As you were good enough to refer to me in your interesting leading article today (March 2) perhaps I may be allowed to make a few comments on it.
First, at a point where my own 1973 study was not a supplement to Sir Richard Clarke's *New Trends in Government*. It was number two in the Civil Service College Studies (of which Sir Richard's was the first) and was concerned with the more limited though still vital, area of government, namely the evolution and operation of the system of public expenditure management and control in this country. It was written in the light of experience of six years after Sir Richard left the Treasury, an eventful period which included such developments as the loss of control over public spending in 1966-68; its re-establishment under the Jenkins Chancellorship 1968-70; the cut expenditure in the interests of fiscal balance in 1970 and the subsequent reversal of that policy after 1971. It also included such major events on the institutional side as publication of the annual White Paper on public expenditure and appointment of the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure and its various sub-committees.

My principal object then was to describe the Treasury's role in developing and operating the Expenditure Survey Committee system (PESC) to Sir Richard Peto, who was then Secretary of the Committee, and to emphasize the essential unity of management in which public expenditure was a principal instrument of policy inextricably meshed with taxation, monetary, credit, industrial, and incomes policies. Your defenceence of this basic unity in your leader and the fact that it hardly be battered and shaken in conjunction with all but the most prejudiced.

seek to dismember the Treasury is their belief that the size of public spending can be settled by itself as a once-for-all act, after which the only job is to stick to a pre-determined total and to a number of pre-determined figures for the programmes of individual departments. This is not and cannot be how things happen in real life, either as to the way the size of the public sector as a whole is arrived at or as to the systems and techniques of determining and controlling the various parametrical programmes which compose it. These techniques involve

innuous dialogue between Treasury expenditure divisions and the expending departments, a dialogue conducted against the background and in the knowledge of the Government's total economic position. What advantage would there be in turning this dialogue into a trialogue? Would this not complicate matters and make for inflexibility and dissention? In this light as in more glamorous aspects of life, two's company, three's a crowd. If it is true that the original intention was that the Treasury and the Civil Service should be the creation of the Civil Service Department was a mistake the remedy lies in reunification with the Treasury of a number (not all) of the functions of the CSD, such as financial management, rather than the present arrangement of 12 members.

As a member of the Treasury department, which should as you have demonstrated continue to be responsible for the Government's financial and economic strategy, I am, yours faithfully,

GOLDMAN,
10, New Street, EC2.
March 2

From Mr Patrick Wall, MP for
Hampshire (Conservative)

Sir, The Statement on the Defence
Estimates just received is an even
more blatant fraud than usual. It is true
that the Secretary of State for
Defence has to fight on two fronts
—against the Tribune Group, who
want drastic further cuts, and with
the more responsible members of
the Parliamentary Labour Party
who are growing increasingly
worried at the emasculation of our
defence forces. Even so, to take
such pains to describe the increased
Soviet threat, and the need for the
White Paper to justify further de-
fence cuts can only be described as
fraudulent.

One of the techniques is to carry over warship building programmes from one year to the next in order to imply that a new ship is to be ordered. In fact the reduced building rate of anti-submarine warships has been maintained, while the rate of increasing Soviet nuclear submarine fleet, in face of our allies' acute distress. Not only has the active fleet been reduced by four frigates but eight projected destroyers or frigates will not now be built.

Our capability to carry out one of our NATO commitments, to reinforce the Atlantic flank, is now in question, the Royal Marine Commandos having lost their Commando carriers and assault ships

From the Bishop of Bath and Wells
Sir, "I shall get no answer this
time either of course" (Bernard
Levin on Rudolf Hess (your issue
of March 1). Why not? I believe
the march and should. Among many
Englishmen, this and so fearlessly
denounces the vast majority of
Englishmen as particularly obscene.
As well as enlisting the help of
the United Nations, as mentioned
by Levin, there is Amnesty
International and the Bishop of
Canterbury is a very
active British patriot. This organiza-
tion, which exists primarily to work
for the release of prisoners of
conscience—a category of course
which usually applies to the rights
of man—also opposes cruel and
inhumane or degrading punishment
for all prisoners"; and such is
unwillingly what the four powers,
unwillingly after all these years in
the case of the three Western ones,
are still clinging to this old man.
Let Amnesty International and it
fore adopt Rudolf Hess, and it
could well be as successful as it

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, I have read with interest the conclusions drawn from the results of the New Earnings Survey 1976 by Mr Layard and Professor Ashenfelter (letter, March 1). They quite rightly point out that the period covered by the survey does not correspond exactly with that of the £6 a week pay policy (August 1975-August 1976). There were several large pay settlements between April 1975 and the end of 1975 which may well have contributed to the increases in average earnings. By the same token it is also possible, of course, that employers did not apply the pay policy with equal vigour.

As far as the medical profession is concerned—with the government virtually its sole employer—the award of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration in April 1976 applied the "voluntary" pay policy rigidly to doctors. There is no way in which doctors at the top 10 per cent of the NES (above the third point on the senior registrar scale) can have maintained their relationship to average earnings over this period. Increases for this group of doctors under the "voluntary" pay policy ranged from 5.5 per cent for the senior registrar to

From Mr Denis MacShane
Sir, The news of Ken Morgan's resignation as General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists will be received with universal regret within the union.
May I, who has often disagreed with him publicly and within the National Executive Council of the NUJ, explain why that regret will be so widespread.

For the last eight years he has steered the NUJ through the most turbulent chapter in its history while he has been under enormous pressure from all sides; from the right, the traditional leadership brought up staidier times who felt he could have been more dismissive of the other developing trend, the younger more radical activists who wanted to see the NUJ become harder (and perhaps cruder) in pursuit of its interests at the expense of internal peace and quiet, and who have attacked Morgan because he is not willing to tear Scargill as some of them might wish.

There is a dichotomy within the NUJ between one hard role as a trade union part of the TUC

individualistic, the very opposite of collectivist trade unionism. As an NEC member who on nearly all issues has urged the hard trade union course while others have argued for a more cautious marking time approach I must salute the extraordinarily deft way Morgan has reconciled the inner tension and ensured that the ever-present

Jubilee trees

From Mr C. E. Bruce-Gardyne

Sir, Mr W. Wright, in his letter which you publish today (February 23) asks how to combat the ravages of vandals against the trees which this Jubilee Committee are thinking of planting in the village of Mepworth, to commemorate the centenary of the Silver Jubilee. I want to him our experience in the village of Frickheim, Angus, where we have not escaped our share of the current curse of vandalism?

About two years ago it was determined to plant a row of about 100 trees along the front of the village, the main street being open to the

From Mr David Holbrook
Sir, The letter from Mr Richard Hamilton and others (February 26) should suggest that no lines should be drawn between the people of what they call "erotic art". In the name of freedom we must apparently "stand up for bastards"—for the Edmunds of this world. Yet the Edmunds who base their dealings with the world on fanatical dogma have never generated some terrible problem of their own. It now seems that the arts are willing to pervert any truth, and debase any value—and can we really allow this to happen? Bruno Bettelheim recently protested in the *New Yorker* against a film (*Seven Years in Tibet*) about the Japanese of the concentration camp that it seems to imply that life outside the camps and inside the camps is equally mad—so that no discriminations may be made. It even makes mention of being drowned in excreta.

To some of us the destruction of symbolism and the undermining of values in the modern arts is promoting a dangerous nihilism. Yet in the field of public discrimination there is a real total collapse. The theatre is not what the Parliament does not want, and that theatre should be so taken up with pornography, and it did not intend perversion to be so freely available on our bookshelves. The present situation has been brought about by the circumvention of democracy; and there can be no doubt, as Professor Williams has argued, that pornography debasement is threatened on these values upon which democracy depends.

In this situation what is needed is continual testing of pornographic works under the law, in an atmosphere of continuing critical debate. We do not want to see obscenity on the stage or in the courtroom, but to be put to the test of legal trial, because the authorities have refused to allow prosecutions. And as for debate, our intellectuals have substituted campaigns for discourse. Books are not read, but reviewed. *We Draw the Line?* (Brigham Young University Press) cannot find a publisher over here. Professor Robert Stoller's *Perversion: the Erotic Form of Barred* (Harvester Wheatsheaf) has been reviewed almost nowhere except in the *University of California Press* *Library Supplement*; some magazines will publish nothing that does not argue in favour of total abolition of censorship (eg *The New Humanist*). Yet there are obvious problems about recent reports from America, suggesting that

are spending over £500m a year on pornography involving children, while some children are actually being sold into pornography by their parents. And in a future issue of the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* Dr John Cooper is publishing evidence of an effect on serious crimes where pornography has been tolerated in various countries.

Obscenity may be acceptable, but where there is a serious overall harm to society for scientific purposes only then established where there is an informed debate. But it is a principle which has been lost sight of in our society, and in my experience there is a heavy indifference to the arguments of the paper expressing this problem, far more serious than the banning of a few of the more outrageous manifestations of so-called eroticism.

Yours etc,
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Longacre,
Haverhill Road,
Stapleford,
Cambridge.
February 26.

From Lord Kenyon and Mr Edward Warner

Sir, In view of the widespread concern and anxiety which is being expressed with regard to the future of the Library of John Evelyn the Librarian, we write in order to make known that a letter on behalf of the Executive Committee and of the General Council of the Friends of the National Libraries was last week addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to exploring the possibility of safeguarding the future of the library as an entity.

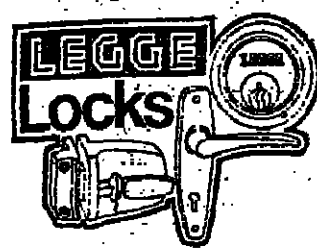
Indication of support for such a course, on the part of individuals and institutions, will be of value and encouragement to the Friends: appeal to the public will follow.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND, Chairman,
EDWARD WARNER, Secretary,
Friends of the National Libraries,
c/o The British Library,
Read Russell Street, WC1.
March 1.

from Mr. A. D. Fitton Brown
 air, About "the true, the blushtful
 Hippocrene of course
 tipped with water but Keats
 regarded wine as the true fieur
 poetic inspiration, and water be-
 comes wine when it blushts. This
 point was recognized by the young
 rashaw in his memorable verse on
 the miracle at Cana: "Nympha
 iudica Deum vidit et erubuit".
 Yours faithfully,
 D. FITTON BROWN,
 Department of Classics,
 University of Leicester.
 February 28.

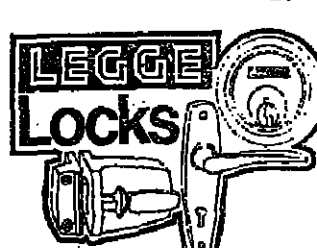
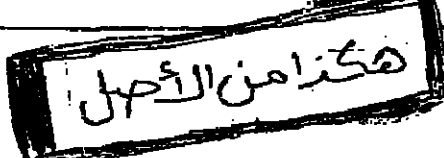
from Mr Felix Aphrahman
Mr Gavin Henderson's idea
atters, March 1) is charming, but
has mislaid the Artists' Entrance
the Queen's Hall. It was in Riding
ouse Street, and not a trace of it
ains. His proposal would, of
course, commemorate the quick exit
of the orchestral brass to the
ue Pot, or the spot where the
gendy Bobbie prevented the
winding of the Leonora III trumpet
with: "You can't do that there
ere. There's a concert a-going on in
ere."

Yours faithfully,
FELIX APRAHAMIAN,
the Athenaeum, SW1.
March 2.



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Reserves rise £345m to highest level for more than two years

By Malvern Westlake
More confidence in the economy helped to bring further large sums of money into Britain last month, pushing the Bank of England to a new peak in its reserves of £345m in February, the highest level for more than two years.

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury yesterday:

End of period	£m	Change in month
1971	6,582	2,526
1972	6,648	2,526
1973	6,478	2,787
1974	6,789	2,890
1975	6,429	2,683
1976	4,129	2,426
1977	5,608	2,775
Nov	5,429	2,583
Dec		- 107
1978		
Jan	6,785	3,344
Feb	7,024	3,468
March	5,905	3,082
April	4,848	2,633
May	5,423	3,083
June	5,312	2,976
July	5,370	3,010
Aug	5,029	2,831
Sept	5,158	3,092
Oct	4,703	2,986
Nov	5,156	3,118
Dec	4,129	2,426
1977		
Jan	7,196	4,196
Feb	7,787	4,546

This follows the huge January rise in reserves of nearly 75 per cent when Britain received the first instalment of its loan from the International Monetary Fund. Although the latest increase is considerably below that for the previous month, it still represents an unusually good improvement in the reserve position.

Contributing to the latest rise is the first drawing—\$250m—from the \$1,500m loan recently raised by the Government from an international group of banks. Another \$10m resulted from borrowings made by the National Westminster Bank from the European Investment Bank.

But much of the balance of the increase in reserves—\$331m—stems directly from the Bank of England's intervention in the foreign exchange market.

The pound was less convincingly strong last month than it was in January, particularly in the wake of a much wider trade deficit and the mounting opposition of some trade unionists to a further stage of pay restraint.

Even so, it is obvious that the Bank of England was more involved in holding the exchange rate of the pound down than in propping it up. Throughout the month the rate was held between \$1.6950 and \$1.7180.

But it has become increasingly clear in recent weeks that much less of the money that is flowing into Britain is of the speculative, volatile variety than was originally thought. Such inflows present considerable problems to the authorities because this kind of hot money is inclined to flow out just as quickly.

According to the latest assessment in Whitehall, however, the earlier estimates that as much as \$1,000m of hot money may have been invested in the government bond market are too high by a large margin.

The main inflows appear to have been to the account of residents, and the unwinding

Banks get support on inflation accounting

By Christopher Wilkins

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is putting its weight behind the banks' demands that any new inflation accounting system should make full allowance for changes in the value of monetary items.

In the Institute's view, which emerged at a meeting of its council yesterday morning, it puts it into direct opposition to the proposals of the Sandilands Committee and the Morphet Committee, which produced an exposure draft on inflation accounting last December.

Sandilands considered that no adjustments for inflation in respect of monetary items should be made in companies' profit and loss statements. As a preferred solution, Morphet followed the Sandilands principle but suggested that adjustments might be made in a separate profit and loss account.

Banks have argued strongly that adjustments for monetary items should be made in profit and loss accounts to cover the erosion of their capital in relation to the overall growth in their businesses.

In acknowledgement of its own uncertainty on this issue, the Morphet Committee set up a separate working party to look into the problems of the banks.

The council's meeting was only the first stage of its discussions on inflation accounting, and nothing more than the broad principle of support for inclusion of monetary adjustments in the profit and loss account was agreed upon.

A further meeting is to be held on May 4 to consider the Institute's final submission to the Morphet Committee and, in the meantime, its technical committee is looking into the issue in more detail.

Apart from the question of monetary items, which has been the most contentious feature of the inflation accounting debate so far, the Institute has come out in favour of the central concept underpinning the Morphet proposals. The council was unanimous on this point.

But it is seeking extensive modifications. It wants the exposure draft to be simplified, for instance by the exclusion of leasing from any new inflation accounting standard. It also wants the minimum size of turnover of companies required to produce current cost accounts to be raised from £100,000 to £500,000.

The Institute believes that the appropriate account, proposed by Morphet to show revaluation surpluses and any extra allocations necessary to maintain the substance of the business, should be audited.

On the question of the discretion allowed to directors in making this allocation there has been some criticism, and a recent report by the auditing practices committee has cast doubt on whether it would be possible to audit appropriation accounts.

Other main alterations proposed by the Institute are that historic cost accounts should be retained as a supplement to current cost accounts for a year longer than proposed by Morphet, and that the common starting date for the introduction of the new system for all companies. Morphet proposed that big companies should introduce it before small ones.

Sharp rise in gold ahead of IMF auction

Gold bullion rose strongly in price yesterday in advance of the International Monetary Fund's auction—the first of the new series of monthly auctions with \$25,000 ounces on offer.

At the close in London gold was \$144—a rise of \$3 on the day although slightly off its peak during dealings.

The rise was seen as encouraging for the success of the IMF auction because it reversed the movement seen on Tuesday and topped the promising rise on Monday.

Fiat delegation in Peking talks

Rome, March 2.—A Fiat delegation headed by Signor Nicola Gioia, the board member responsible for international relations, arrived today in Peking from Turin for talks with the Chinese authorities on sectors other than motor cars.

The talks had been under preparation for nearly a year. Signor Gioia is accompanied by experts in the fields of industrial vehicles, industrial motors, forklift trucks, machine tools, earth-moving equipment and tractors.

Israeli prices pledge softens 2pc devaluation

A further 2 per cent devaluation brought the Israeli pound to 9.25 to the American dollar (15.7 to the pound). The devaluation, the first since January 17, was accompanied by government assurances that prices of basic commodities, fuel and public transport will remain unchanged. Other prices are expected to rise steeply.

Leyland board seeking ways to avert drastic review proposed by NEB

By Edward Townsend

British Leyland's board is certain to meet before the end of this week to agree on emergency measures to avoid the drastic review of the car division's capital investment programme which the National Enterprise Board said yesterday would be necessary unless there was a return to sustained output.

Directors were drawing up plans to meet the NEB's request that they "give the fullest possible explanation to trade union officials, shop stewards and all employees of the grave situation which has been reached, the consequences of which are likely to follow for the car plant, and the objectives which have to be met if there is to be any chance of averting these consequences".

In its strongest warning yet about the company's severe internal financial problems, the NEB said: "It is the NEB's sincere hope that the very serious consequences for the future of Leyland Cars and for its workforce can be averted while there is still time. If not, the situation will be beyond the power of BL or the Government to put right."

It is clear that the Leyland board had no choice under the Companies Act last week but to report to the NEB—its largest shareholder and provider of investment capital—that lost production resulting from the strike of strikers was putting the company in a position where it was no longer viable.

The NEB has reacted with a decision that the scope of the investment programme for Leyland Cars would have to be cut substantially if cash continued to flow out of the company at the present rate.

Under its chairman, Lord Ryder, the NEB is due to provide £1,400m to British Leyland under the 10-year Ryder plan, with a similar amount generated by the company internally and from non-public sources.

Faced with Leyland's alarming financial predicament, the NEB realises that under its guidelines there will be no government guarantees to creditors of any NEB subsidiaries (except in the cases of Rolls-Royce (1971) and International Computers).

As a result, should any NEB subsidiary go into liquidation, the board is bound to act in the same way as a private company. The company's cash problems were underlined yesterday when it disclosed at a Commons Select Committee hearing dealing with the British Steel Corporation that

it had asked the BSC to suspend manufacture of steel until further notice. This will perhaps save Leyland Cars some £50,000 a week, but it poses problems for BSC, which is struggling to maintain sales in a depressed market.

There was also irony yesterday in the Commons that in the latest United Kingdom car production figures, which showed that in January, British Leyland made more cars—68,568—than in any other month since the restructuring company began operations in September, 1975. The company's previous best month was May last year, when it produced 66,068 cars.

Against this is the Prime Minister's comment on Tuesday in the Commons that in the past year, Leyland had failed to produce 200,000 cars. Under the Ryder plan, which stressed (in April, 1975) that urgent action must be taken to remedy the weaknesses which at present prevent it from competing effectively in world markets, the company's operations were divided into four separate businesses, each a profit centre. They were cars, trucks and buses, special products and international offshoots.

From the start, the car division has wilted while the other businesses have flourished, and the failure has been almost entirely blamed on poor industrial relations.

Leyland Cars accounts for almost three quarters of the company's activities and is due to receive the major share of the planned investment. Big foundry projects, the replacement for the Mini in 1980, factory expansions and modernizations, major machine tool purchasing and the introduction of face-lifted models and new ranges of cars, all designed to build Leyland into a major European force in the motor industry in the next decade, are planned.

The Ryder report concluded two years ago that BL's present levels of capital expenditure and working capital were far too low. Even to maintain the level in real terms needed a profit of at least £100m a year and much larger sums to make up for the capital rundown of the past.

More lay-offs: The number of workers laid off in British Leyland plants rose to more than 30,000 yesterday, with the probability of up to 40,000 before the week's end. The new lay-offs involved workers in ancillary areas where car production is already halted.

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State backs Clyde rig with £13m

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Up to £13m will be supplied by the Government for the construction of a speculative oil exploration rig for the British National Oil Corporation by the American-owned Marathon UK company on the Upper Clyde.

It will provide much needed employment for the company whose order book has been exhausted.

Mr Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons last night that he had asked the BNOC to negotiate with Marathon for the purchase of the rig within guidelines laid down by the Government.

The Government decided to back Marathon to provide cash for BNOC to build the rig as a speculative venture following the company's decision to lay off over 1,000 of its workers after the delivery of its last order.

The Energy Secretary made it clear because of the large commitment by the Government towards financing of the contract, it would require to approve the terms and conditions, although the detailed negotiations would be undertaken by the BNOC who would place the order on its own account.

Elsewhere within the troubled shipbuilding industry Swan Hunter announced last night that it had completed negotiations with the Bowring Steamship Company for an order for a 28,000 tons deadweight bulk carrier for delivery in April next year. The ship is to be built at the group's Hebburn yard.

Monopolies Commission uncovers price ring in copying materials

By Ronald Emley

The Monopolies Commission has uncovered a price ring which operated in the late 1960s and early 1970s in the supply of diazo copying material—papers, cloths and films which have been made light sensitive by coating them with diazomium compounds, used largely in drawing offices.

Yesterday the Director General of Fair Trading placed on the public register 22 previously unregistered verbal agreements relating to parallel pricing of cover prices and discounts of the four major suppliers in the United Kingdom. They are Ozalid, C.A.S. (Great Britain), Addressograph Multigraph and Harper & Tinsell.

In a Commons reply yesterday Mr John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said the Government took a serious view of the existence of the unregistered agreements.

In its report published yesterday the commission found that Ozalid held a monopoly (it held more than 50 per cent of the market in 1974-75) and that the other three companies might be in a complex monopoly situation.

A complex monopoly is defined as one in which suppliers have more than 25 per cent of a market jointly and conduct their respective affairs so as to restrict or distort competition by charging the same or similar prices or offering the same or similar discounts," Mr Fraser said.

Existence of the unregistered agreements prevented the Monopolies Commission from taking into account all the facts it received when drawing up its

report. In effect it had to disregard the price agreements, a matter within the jurisdiction of the Restrictive Practices Court, and thus it could only find that the Ozalid monopoly did not operate contrary to the public interest, and that it was impossible for it to determine whether the potential complex monopoly of the other three companies exists or did so at the time of the request for its inquiry.

However, the commission did find, Mr Fraser said, that "Ozalid's prices had been higher in recent years than might have been expected in fully competitive conditions but again they were unable to say how far the profit levels resulted from any limitation of price competition arising from unregistered agreements or how far, if at all, from the monopoly position of Ozalid".

In the absence of any adverse findings by the Monopolies Commission the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection could take no further action. He said, however, the Director General of Fair Trading proposed to start proceedings in the Restrictive Practices Court.

It is thought likely that initially he will seek court orders declaring the agreements subject to registration under the 1956 Act and thus illegal and void. He will probably also seek an order directing the companies to register any further agreements before making them effective and to give an undertaking not to revive any of the 22 agreements.

Course of action could involve seeking a ruling on whether the agreements operated against the public interest.

The third agreement put on

the OFT register yesterday refers to the "Top Twenty" specified customers who were all to be offered similar prices and discounts. They included British Leyland, GEC, British Steel, Ford, General Motors, British Railways, Hawker Siddeley, the National Coal Board, Playtex and Rolls-Royce.

One of the "Top Twenty" was ICI, which the commission noted in its report, had an agreement with Ozalid under which the latter "has been able to obtain a price more favourable than that charged by ICI to other diazo manufacturers because of its commitments to large purchases of film. There is also a technical collaboration agreement between Ozalid and ICI."

Mr Fraser said yesterday that he "understood all the agreements had been brought to an end".

Because the agreements were verbal none of the companies is completely sure which operated at any given period and indeed there are doubts as to whether some of the 22 agreements registered yesterday were in fact made.

An Ozalid spokesman said last night that all arrangements as far as they were aware had come to an end before the Monopolies Commission reference in July, 1974.

Ozalid had provided as much information to the commission as was possible. Seven different volumes of material, some of them substantial, had been put together for the commission. It was welcomed the commission's conclusion that there was no operation against the public interest.

Ozalid last month accepted a £24.6m takeover bid from Oceanic Grinten of Holland.

Moves to draw Saudis into IMF loans plan

From David Blake

Paris, March 2

Senior international monetary officials are now studying plans aimed at increasing the resources available to the International Monetary Fund by several thousand million dollars.

It is hoped that a scheme involving the Saudi Arabians being brought in to a special lending relationship can be worked out in time for the next meeting of the IMF's interim committee on April 28 and 29.

It is hoped that such a scheme could boost the fund's resources by at least \$12,000m (about £700m) with figures as high as \$20,000m to \$30,000m being considered possible.

Soundings out of a discreet sort are about to get under way with the Saudi Arabians. The chairman of the Group of Ten, Willie Clerg, Belgian finance minister, is expected to fly to Saudi Arabia next week.

It is also believed that Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the fund, has been in Saudi Arabia for talks.

The money, if it can be raised, would be used for the extra tranche of loans to countries in great difficulty, which was foreshadowed in the Jamaica agreement in January, 1976. This tranche would only be used under very stringent conditions.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, recently stressed Germany's willingness to participate in raising money for this scheme in an interview in a Saudi Arabian newspaper, the Saudi Gazette.

So far, it is not clear how the Saudis will react to any such proposal. But it does seem certain that seeking to introduce such a scheme is now playing a central role in the thinking of some leading international financial circles in the West.

Growing concern has been voiced about the limited resources available to the official elements trying to deal with the increasingly difficult problem of financing the external deficits of countries in trouble.

This concern recently found expression in a speech by Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, who last week visited Saudi Arabia on a trip aimed at discussing the possible purchase of United Kingdom bonds denominated in foreign currency.

It is not known whether the idea that the Saudis should play a greater role in providing funds for international financial institutions was discussed during his visit.

At the moment the basic idea seems to be to get Saudi Arabia to accept an elite status as a lender to the fund, possibly through association with the general arrangements to borrow, or perhaps in some new club composed exclusively of creditor nations.

£3.6m Saudi order

Swifts Cages of Scarborough has received an export order worth £3.6m from Saudi Arabia for housing cages and ancillary equipment under the second stage of a poultry project located near Riyadh.

Increase in overtime

By Our Economic Staff

Fresh evidence of the upturn in economic activity in the later months of last year is provided by new figures showing overtime working in October at its highest for nearly two years, and short-time working at its lowest for rather longer.

According to returns from a sample of employers, published in the latest *Employment Gazette* yesterday, the number of overtime hours worked in manufacturing industry in the week ended October 16 (the latest figures available) was 15.84 million—the highest since December 1974. Some 35.1 of all operatives were working an average 8.6 hours of overtime.

At the same time, the number of operatives who worked short-time for all or part of the week was down to 46,000, the

lowest number affected since the summer of 1974, while the total number of hours lost in this way, at 503,000, was the lowest for 26 months. Average hours lost were 10.3.

These trends are consistent with other indications in late autumn and early winter. During the last quarter of 1976 manufacturing production appears to have been increasing at an annual rate of 2½ to 3 per cent.

Hours lost through short-time have now been falling quite steadily since the record levels of May 1975 (when nearly 240,000 operatives lost almost three million hours). Overtime has been more erratic, but appears to have been on an upward trend since the middle of 1975, although it is still significantly below the levels prevailing in 1974.

Expanding?



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County Hall, Manchester M60 3HP
Telephone 061-247 3311

How the markets moved

The Times index: 167.77-0.48
The FT index: 410.6+0.2

Rises	Falls
Allen, H. & Ross 10p to 43p	Brathwaite 10p to 25p
Art-I, thom 10p to 13p	De Beers Ind 20p to 39p
Beckham 8p to 42p	De Hids 3p to 42p
Cape Ind 8p to 11p	Eaga Hids 3p to 23p
Hawthorn, L. 16p to 56p	Imp Cont Gas 5p to 36p
Home Charu 8p to 78p	Intech 15p to 33p
Mitland 8p to 26p	Jardine, M'son 5p to 29p

Equities had a subdued session. Government securities rallied from early losses. Sterling gained 15 points to close at \$1.7150. Index of the £ effective depreciation on new basis stood at 61.8 (December 1971=100). On old basis the depreciation rate was unchanged at 43.1 per cent.

Gold rose \$3.00 an ounce to \$144.625. 500-5 was 1.15706 on Wednesday, while 500-2 was 0.67385.

Commodities: Metals prices were broadly steady. Rubber index was 1695.1 (previous 1680.4).

Reports, pages 21 and 22

On other pages

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Diary			

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.61
Austria Sch	30.50
Belgium Fr	65.00
Canada \$	1.43
Denmark Kr	16.00
Finland Mk	6.75
France Fr	8.74
Germany Dm	4.26
Greece Dr	65.00
Hong Kong \$	157.00
Italy Lit	505.00
Netherlands Gld	4.44
Norway Kr	9.30
Portugal Esc	72.00
S Africa Rd	2.03
Spain Pes	121.75
Sweden Kr	7.51
Switzerland Fr	4.53
US \$	1.75
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.25

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Company _____
Address _____
City _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____

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22 Golden Square, London W1R 4AD.
Representatives

Osram gives warning on cheap lamp imports

By Patricia Tisdall

A warning that it may be forced to stop producing vehicle lamps because of unfair competition from cheap imports has been made by Osram (GEC) to the Department of Industry.

In his correspondence with the department, Mr Patrick Samson, managing director of Osram—one of the biggest producers in the field—has said that the long-term future of 650 workers at two factories is at risk.

Philips, another large manufacturer of this type of lamp, shut its plant at Hamilton, Lanarkshire, last year.

If Osram carried out its threat the factory which would be most affected is at Team Valley, Gateshead, which employs about 500 workers. Without the vehicle lamp capacity, it is doubtful whether this factory could continue to function economically. A further 150 jobs would be lost at Shaw, in Lancashire.

Managers at both factories have been told that the company, a GEC subsidiary, is cranking every effort to secure future employment.

Osram, like the rest of the industry, wants the Government to check the imports.

With two remaining large producers, Thorn and Crompton Parkinson, Osram accounts for about 80 per cent of total United Kingdom production of lamps used in vehicle headlights, sidelights, indicators, brake lights, etc.

The industry, in common with other automobile accessory producers, has suffered from declining overall sales in the past three years.

But it has simultaneously been hit by a sharp rise in imports from eastern block countries, particularly Hungary, as well as Hongkong and Taiwan, at prices which are a half to two-thirds of the cost of manufacturing in Britain.

Between 1972 and 1976, imports of motor vehicle lamps rose from about 16 million units to 45 million units.

Imports from Hungary alone have risen from about 12 million units in 1975 to more than 20 million last year.

Mr Brian Hill, president of the United Kingdom Lighting Industry Federation, said yesterday that if the present trends were allowed to continue, home sales would be overtaken by the volume of imports in 1980.

The federation has been trying for some time to make a case for anti-dumping legislation.

Wages Inspectorate blitz shows 'alarming' underpayment of workers

By Melvyn Westlake

Widespread underpayment of workers has been exposed during a "low pay blitz" carried out around the country by the Wages Inspectorate last autumn.

The investigation which began in September and lasted about two months realized the "worst fears" of the Department of Employment. Announcing details in the latest *Employment Gazette*, published yesterday, the Department describes the results as "most alarming".

More than a quarter of employers visited by wages inspectors were paying workers less than they were entitled to in wages and holiday pay.

More than £76,000 was assessed as being owed to more than 1,650 people, and some prosecutions are under consideration.

Advance warning of the investigation was given by Mr John Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, last September.

This followed earlier undertakings by the Minister in May to focus public attention on the problems of enforcing minimum-wage legislation and review the use of resources within the Wages Inspectorate.

In conducting the investigation one town was initially

Results of the "blitz" campaign, by Wages Council Trade

	EMPLOYERS Inspected	EMPLOYERS Under-paying	EMPLOYEES Examined	EMPLOYEES Under-paid	Amount under-paid £
Retail bread (E & W) ..	91	32	293	76	2,516.01
Retail bread (Scotland) ..	6	2	20	—	—
Bookbinding ..	42	21	294	59	1,205.48
Drapery and outfitting ..	471	150	1,715	295	11,922.26
Retail food (E & W) ..	536	125	1,755	234	14,263.97
Retail food (Scotland) ..	106	15	424	25	2,588.36
Furnishing and Allied ..	416	84	1,833	144	14,085.62
Newsagency and tobacco (E & W) ..	269	96	813	188	7,247.14
Newsagency and tobacco (Scotland) ..	59	12	195	30	2,317.52
Hairdressing ..	427	112	1,558	176	4,384.04
Licensed non-residential ..	318	70	1,870	171	6,218.02
Licensed restaurants ..	78	24	694	61	3,839.20
Unlicensed restaurants ..	124	59	598	196	5,315.83
Others ..	28	5	61	5	157.30
TOTAL ..	2,973	805	11,923	1,659	76,168.75

chosen at random in eight of the 16 Wages Inspectorate Divisions, with five or six inspectors visiting each town. By the end of November some 23 towns had been saturated.

The investigation was concentrated on the retail trades and catering, where underpayment was suspected to be most widespread.

Of 2,973 employers visited by the inspectors, some 805 were found to be paying less than the minimum wage laid

down by the Wages Council for the appropriate trade.

About 14 per cent of the 12,000 employees examined were being underpaid, and an average amount of £45.90 was claimed on behalf of each worker. This, the Department says, "could be described as a large sum of money for working people".

However, the number of prosecutions which are likely to result will be small.

Most of the work places visited during the inspections were experiencing their first visit from a wages inspector, and it has long been the Inspectorate's policy not to prosecute first offenders unless the offence is flagrant.

Of the work places visited for the second time, 54 were found to have broken the regulations on both occasions.

All these cases were examined with a view to prosecuting the employers concerned, but most were found to have committed minor infringements or were not suitable for prosecution.

Three cases, however, are in course of preparation for proceedings.

But more importantly, the publicity attendant on the blitz will help in the "self-enforcement" process.

The Department of Employment believes.

Most underpayment has been found to occur through ignorance of the regulations or a failure to understand the legal language of the wages orders.

Tuich help compliance, greater weight is now to be laid on simplifying the orders.

This should involve better presentation of regulations, a move away from legalistic language and a reduction in the complexities of the rules.

Construction sector faces more jobless and 'permanent damage'

By Malcolm Brown

The Government was warned yesterday that the construction industry was sustaining permanent structural damage because of its present crisis, and that unemployment in the industry, already 200,000, might rise to around 300,000 if relief measures were not taken now.

The warning was given at the National Economic Development Council when Mr John Cuckney, chairman of the Economic Development Committee for Building, expressed extreme disappointment at the Government's response to the industry's plea for help.

He was backed up by TUC and Confederation of British Industry representatives around the table.

Mr Cuckney was commenting on a paper circulated at the meeting by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, which constituted the Government's "considered response" to pleas put forward by the economic development committees for building and

civil engineering and by industrial and trade union leaders in a series of meetings in recent months.

Mr Shore's paper sympathises with the industry, but says that nothing could be done which would involve further public expenditure. The industry must sweat out the crisis.

Mr Cuckney told the council that the construction industry was now at crisis point. There were real grounds for thinking that if and when demand picked up again much of the capacity needed to meet that demand would simply not be there.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said that unemployment in the sector was now around 200,000, and that this figure might well reach 300,000. Concern was rising about the number of craftsmen leaving the industry and about the break-up of design teams.

The council was told that in many areas of building materials production, notably brick kilns and quarries, capacity was being closed down and would not reopen.

TUC members on the council said that there must be further pressure to decentralise the whole industry.



Mr John Cuckney: building industry is at crisis point.

Warner report, page 20

Appeal to encourage small trader

By Derek Harris

Substantial changes were needed in government policy towards smaller-scale enterprises, said Mr David Howell, Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, speaking at a Conservative conference on the Voice of Small Business in London yesterday.

Mr Howell said that the Government's policy was "out of touch" with the needs of small businesses, and that it should put aside pre-occupations with big-scale investment programmes, rationalizing and nationalizing, and concentrate instead on policy changes which would help small business to start up and grow.

Mr Howell pointed out that the world's best performing and fastest growing economies tended to be those with the largest numbers of small businesses.

He went on: "The industrial structure we need to meet tomorrow's marketing challenges must be highly flexible and capable of rapid wheel-and-spindle change in products and processes. The giant industrial concerns of the past are not the best suited to the new challenges."

"When it comes to jobs, far the best prospect is going to be at the smaller end of business and commerce if any of these are given half a chance under socialism."

A key priority was to cut the preposterously high rates of tax on both income and capital.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax pressure on partnerships

From Mr J. C. Warden

Sir, It has been said before and must be repeated as often as space is permitted, that small businesses and especially service partnerships such as patent agents and solicitors are being forced into a condition of financial jeopardy by the present level of taxation and its system of administration. Unless remedial measures are taken, the next twelve months may be critical since at present we are permitted to exist only under the sufferance of increasing bank overdrafts.

The most depressing factor is the condition of complete impotence to remedy the situation, even when there is plenty of work to do. Inflation immediately increases the capital requirement due to the time lag in receiving payment of fees and disbursements. The last Patent Office fee increases, for example, increased immediately the capital requirement of my firm to the extent of the existing permitted overdraft, and that is only one small factor.

It is not possible merely by increasing productivity to alleviate the situation, since the lion's share of the profits is milked off in taxation. One can exert pressure upon clients to pay faster, but only at the risk of upsetting long-standing relationships, and the pressure is merely shifted to another party who may be in a similar predicament. Also, once the gap is closed to the minimum, no further relief is possible.

Enormous amounts of time and money are spent examining tax avoidance schemes suggested by accountants and tax specialists, which turn out to be of doubtful validity and are quite beyond a small firm's resources—already stretched by government regulations such as VAT—to administer. To force the adoption of such schemes cannot be in the public interest. Inevitably one reduces staff and personal drawings, knowing all the time that such measures are having little or no impact upon the situation.

What we must have is the ability to set aside a reasonable proportion of earnings as capital—free of taxation. A mere reduction of personal taxation—much though it is needed—will not do. It is surely not too much to ask for

a firm to be allowed to provide for itself out of its profits sufficient capital to keep it alive.

If this is not done the total tax collected will drop, with associated suffering to partners and employees. Unless the cow is maintained healthy it will give no milk. The sufferer in the end is the farmer—in this case the Government.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. WARDEN,
Jolligate,
Penslake,
Surrey,
February 28.

From Mr J. E. M. Stewart-Smith

Sir, The attack on individually owned private businesses in this country prompts me to write to tell your readers about a series of three-week courses for the owners or chief executives of such businesses run by the Harvard Business School in the United States called The Smaller Company Management Programme.

This is a series of three courses, each of three weeks (because it is thought that people will not want to be away from their businesses for longer at one time) and is the most popular single course run by the business school.

In the first three weeks you are, as it were, raised up on a platform to see the overall picture of your business, its strengths, its problems and personalities, in the second three weeks you work at problems in greater depth and the third course ties it all together with a lot of attention to family relationships in business, succession and taxation.

I cannot find any equivalent course in England for the entrepreneur and after completing two of the three sessions I am certain that going was the best business decision I have ever made. It would be useful too for people in larger businesses, such as banks, who work with small business.

If any of your readers would like to know more about the course I should be happy to help where I can.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STEWART-SMITH,
Managing Director,
Taylor of London Limited,
166 Sloane Street,
London, SW1.
February 25.

Tourism—a growth industry

From Mr W. Adkins

Sir, Anthony Grant, in your issue of the February 19, has done a special service in indicating so clearly the tourism position in Britain and its importance to us all. This country is second to none in its reputation of hospitality and the way it receives its guests. It is therefore all the more surprising that in this consumer protection era, there is adopted by some such an anti-tourist attitude and thereby such an indifferent attitude to our consumers, the tourists, be they from home or overseas. Some would advocate "soaking" them by extra taxation and by various restrictions amounting almost to an attitude of "don't come".

All this is against the background of a prosperous tourist industry, a growth industry almost unique in Britain at the moment and which is likely to contribute an ever increasing major addition to our balance of payments and to the overall balance on tourism account.

Of course, there will be certain difficulties and inconveniences along the road but why cannot we get together with government, local authorities, transport interests and the hotel and catering industry in order to minimize these defects in the interests of those who genuinely complain. The overall position might then be a more realistic one, one which is bigoted who seem to want to curtail one of the few ways in which our prosperity can be helped along an extremely difficult road.

You, Sir, can make a major contribution by persuading those well disposed towards tourism to come together in the interests of local residents, the consumer (the tourist) and the industry, together with government, in order to provide a base which will help to prevent a reputation which, regrettably, we are fast obtaining abroad, of being indifferent to the contribution which an ever growing tourist industry can provide.

Yours faithfully,
W. ADKINS,
Chairman,
Tourism Development Committee,
The British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers Association,
13 Cork Street,
London.

Assessment of surrender values

From Mr T. Whitley

Sir, The letter of February 19 from Mr Sharman and Mr Macdonald dealing with your leader of February 12, "A poor deal from the life office", and referring to the article "Need for a new look at surrender values" of the same day, good though that is, in my opinion is not trenchant enough.

We must remember that the money that is being dealt with is subscribed wholly by the policy holders to provide for the following purposes in the order set out:

1. To pay the cost of running the society/company which gives the service.

2. To pay out to the beneficiaries the sum of money due to them on the death of the assured before the endowment assurance policy reaches full term.

3. To pay out the assured sums plus bonuses to the policy holders who live to full term, and

4. To pay out equitably to those who surrender their policies before full term.

The first three purposes are contractual, the fourth is, in general, not.

It should be remembered that when deciding to take out a policy, the assured expects that the current bonus rate will continue throughout the life of the policy (and may rise), and anything other than an unforeseen catastrophe (eg, the death toll of the 1914/1918 War), which causes bonuses to decrease, is to be resisted.

To summarize, endowment assurance policyholders are in effect contracted, not with the society/company issuing the policies, but with each other:

the first three purposes set out are matters of assurance, that is, dealing with events which must happen: the fourth purpose is properly insurance, dealing with a matter which only may happen.

If I believe that the societies/companies (employees of the policy holders) do other than take an actuarial view when a policy is surrendered, I should be glad to hear it. I believe that at the time of surrender, the policyholder is credited with a paid-up policy due at full term, and receives its discounted value on an actuarial basis.

Yours faithfully,
T. P. G. WHITLEY,
Bromeswell Hollow,
School Lane,
Bromeswell,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

Dell pledge on imports of cheap suits

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Six East European suppliers of cheap suits to the British market are to raise their prices after a government investigation into allegations of dumping.

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, told the Commons yesterday that the investigation had revealed a measure of dumping with material injury to the United Kingdom clothing industry.

Price undertakings had been given in negotiations with five countries—Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania—while in the case of Bulgaria price increases already being introduced were sufficiently high to make it unnecessary to pursue the case any further.

The Trade Secretary told the Commons that the price of the imported suits would be reviewed from time to time and he said that he was not pursuing allegations concerning the import of boys' suits since the quantities involved were relatively small.

He emphasized that if the industry considered that these products posed a big threat in the future then the Government would be prepared to investigate the matter again.

The investigation had been unusually complex, requiring analysis of a wide range of garments and had been time consuming.

No details were given of the agreements on the level of price increases, and the effect on retail prices will be determined by the amount of "mark up" levied by retailers.

However, industry sources indicated that the present cheapest imported price of an imported suit from eastern block countries at £11.80 would be increased to £13.50 from April 1 and would be raised again to £14.50 from July 1.

The news was welcomed by the clothing industry and by the wool textile industry last night. Mr Richard Camrass, chairman of the Clothing Manufacturers' Federation, said that the flood of cheap imports had posed a real and serious threat to the livelihoods of 300,000 workers.

'Buying the index'

From Mr Raymond Nottage

Sir, I was interested to read Margaret Stone's article "If you can't beat the market—join it!" (February 21) about pension funds "buying the index". May I, through you, Sir, ask those who advocate this policy:

(a) What is the present market value of the 30 shares in the Financial Times industrial ordinary share index not already held by institutions?

(b) How long will it take the pension funds to purchase this available balance, assuming that a given and significant proportion of their investment in equities is devoted to these particular shares?

(c) To what levels is the index expected to rise as the last 20 per cent of the shares in the 30 companies are enticed away from their non-institutional holders?

I should mention that I seek to satisfy a personal, and not an institutional, curiosity.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND NOTTAGGE,
Director-General,
Royal Institute of Public Administration,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place,
London WC1H 9BD,
February 21.

Why engineers are disenchanted with their institutions

From Mr M. R. Hasan

Sir, As a practising engineer and scientist who knows the medical profession through his doctor wife, I agree entirely with Mr Freer's suggestion (February 24) that the engineering professions should be reorganized on the lines of the medical profession with two parallel organizations, one looking after the "spiritual" requirements of the engineers and the other concerned with their "bread and butter".

If the engineers today are disenchanted with the dozen or so institutions which would confer the status of a "chartered engineer" on them, they are only to blame for this state of affairs. These institutions adopt a rather pious and authoritarian attitude towards their members, whose reason d'être the institutions believe, is pursuit of excellence. As a result of this, the engineer has lost the race for status and recognition by society to architects, accountants, doctors and administrators who, viewed objectively, contribute no more to the society than the engineer.

An important factor which has contributed to the present disillusionment is that the existing institutions have failed to evolve or adopt a long-term policy regarding standards of admission to them. Mr Freer is right in saying that with the present graduate-only entrance requirement, some of the great engineers of the past would have failed to qualify as chartered engineers today.

Recently the Institution of Civil Engineers appointed a special committee to look into the entrance requirements to it. If all the recommendations of this committee are followed (as appears to be the case) then it would be impossible to become a chartered engineer in future without an O level in French.

If the Government decides to launch an inquiry into the organization of engineering professions then I should look closely at the way recognized professional bodies are organized and run the USA. I say this on the basis of my own long association with one of them.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. HASAN,
2 Cranleigh Close,
London SE20 8TW,
February 24.

Goode Durrant & Murray Group Limited

Extracts from Mr Lionel Robinson's statement

Earnings in the second half showed an improvement as forecast. Pre-tax profit was £457,000, and the board recommends an unchanged dividend of 15.75%.

The property market, which has had a material effect on our profit over the past years, is still uncertain. We have felt it prudent to change our accounting policy on property development loans and bring into income only interest which has been received.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Why Smith Brothers was turned down

The Stock Exchange Council's rejection of Smith Brothers' request to deal with market makers in South African stocks on their own terms is a temporary irritation to the company. But it highlights a problem which members of the Exchange's Council have been considering in committee since last October.

In essence, the SE has to reconcile its members' need to seek out business where they can find it, with the need to maintain the basic self-regulatory discipline of the SE's market — that of keeping separate the roles of principal and agent. Smith Brothers' proposal would, in the council's view, have breached this discipline.

The Council's soul searching stems from the volume of international business now transacted outside its market. It is clearly in the market's interests to increase capacity as far as possible, and so attempts to draw in international business within the SE framework are produced, ideas for forms of associate membership or an extension of SE regulations to a tertiary market.

But such schemes run into a series of problems. Why should international dealers voluntarily participate? And would not attempts to enforce participation merely force dealers to abandon London altogether?

How would the council reconcile the duality of the role of jobber and broker and the duality of principal and agent among international dealers? And would not such regulations dividing these roles?

The SE's dilemma is simplified by the fact that markets follow their clients, and since the introduction of tighter foreign exchange regulations the domestic market for international stocks has been in decline. Rather than trying to expand the SE to encompass these changing markets, the council could merely alter its commission rules and thereby increase its members' competitive ability to deal freely in international markets outside the SE trading floor.

Deals carried out on that floor give the SE its authority, and increasing the volume of those deals would increase that authority. But to increase volume at the expense of the market's self-regulatory principles at this formative stage of SE thinking would be to over-value and at the same time to dilute the very authority the SE wishes to extend.

Tricentrol/Asmole

A rights by another name

Tricentrol's bid for Asmole Investment Trust, which has been accepted by holders of 52.3 per cent of the equity, is an exercise in opportunism which provides Tricentrol with cash (approximately £2.4m), Asmole's major shareholders with a long-term exit at a negligible discount, and investors in general with very little reason to suppose that the investment trust industry is due for more excitement.

With Tricentrol at 136p last night the bid — 57p for Tricentrol shares and 52p for Asmole's shares at 66.5p — and on the cash alternative provided by Morgan Grenfell — which is prepared to buy Tricentrol's shares at 122½p — the price comes down to 59½p a share. That is just a penny below the net assets (almost exclusively cash) attributable to Asmole's shareholders, following the property and securities sales of the past few months.

Tricentrol's object is to step up its share repurchase programme, in the final quarter of 1977, of some of the Thistle

Herbert Morris

Under siege

While Herbert Morris clings on to slim hopes of the Government reversing its controversial

Stand by

Prince Wladyslaw Potrynski, a Pole in the exhibition business, was to be seen at a London hotel yesterday lunching "already committed potential participants" in a venture called FABLE.

This is short for Floating Arab-British Luxury Expedition, under which it is proposed to send a boatload of British salespeople and their wares on a two and a half month cruise around Gulf ports.

The boat, a 10,000-ton French vessel, was to have left this month but will now not sail before November — if then. Should bookings not pick up, the project may have to be re-named FABLE or Floating Arab-French and British Expedition, for plans do exist to sell space in France.

Guests at yesterday's lunch were addressed by the prince, and then exhorted by John Warburton, head of the overseas directorate of the CBI, David Bissett, of the De-

partment of Trade's Middle East division, and Bryan Brisby, the retired resident director of the Cyprus Popular Bank in Nicosia.

Brisby has been brought back out of retirement by the British Bank of the Middle East to preside over banking operations aboard ship, and to liaise with branches of the bank of call.

BBME is not backing the project financially, the organizers say, but they suggest that Arab interests are or may be.

There will be 120 "stands" aboard the boat, half for industrial firms and half for retailers, costing between £10,000 and £12,500.

Glorian, the prince's company, has firm bookings for between six and 25 stands so far, depending upon which of the representatives one speaks to.

John Klue, one of the Glorian team who inclines to the lower number, said yesterday they need to sell about two thirds of the stands before the cruise is on.

He would like to reach that figure by the end of May when Glorian will have to confirm its charter of the boat. If British bookings are thin, the company will look to the French. Klue declined to name those who had signed on for the cruise.

Williams Hudson

Spitting in the wind

The 25p a share bid for Williams Hudson by Mr David Rowland's Argos Group expires, subject to extension, tomorrow, and the case of the dissident minority shareholders, who are unlikely to muster more than 3 or 4 per cent, looks like a lost one. Through vigorous buying Argos's original 46 per cent stake has been lifted to more like 70 per cent. So most shareholders seem content to get out.

Mr Rowland's view has been that shareholders should accept the 25p. But this has merely acknowledged the dismal alternative prospects. This sorry saga is, in fact, worth much wider consideration. It encapsulates many of the reasons why small shareholders are forsaking the stock market. It is a classic story of how powerless they can be in the face of a dominant and determined shareholder and how little, ultimately, the Stock Exchange can do to protect them.

L. Gardner

A 'recovery' dividend

The knowledge that Rolls-Royce Motors is waiting in the wings may have provided the main impetus behind L. Gardner's share price performance over the last few months. But latest results and current prospects are also providing a significant prop at the present level.

After three years in the doldrums the group staged a powerful recovery last year raising its diesel engine output by some 700 units to 4,500 and Gardner is confident of a similar increase in the current year.

With demand for truck engines proving particularly strong, Gardner was able to more than double first half profit margins to 12.5 per cent in the second six months with the result that profits leapt to £1.1m in the latter period.

Having bought just under 17 per cent of Gardner's equity early last year Rolls-Royce has disappointed some holders by failing to follow-through with a full bid or even talks on closer cooperation, although relationships between the two boards are fairly close.

The feeling in the trade, however, is that Rolls would really like to have Gardner's expertise particularly in smaller diesel engines and that a takeover approach must come eventually. But any move could be delayed until the Government's industrial strategy with regard to diesel engine industry is clearer.

Gardner's shares closed 6p higher at 170p where the p/e ratio is just over 9 which should fall at least two points this year. And with a 38 per cent boost in the dividend payment secured on recovery grounds the yield is 8½ per cent.

Final: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £7.35m
Sales £17.6m (£12.7m)
Pre-tax profits £1.6m (£753,000)
Earnings per share 18.45p (9.13p)
Dividend gross 10.63p (7.69p)

Industrial strategy 6: Rubber processing

Hoping for the rebound

Rubber processing in Britain, and largely in the north, means the production of tyres and other bits and pieces for the vehicle industry, has experienced a sad decline in the past 15 years with its share of world trade tumbling alarmingly.

In 1961, products from United Kingdom rubber processing factories accounted for 22 per cent of the value of world exports of these goods but by 1973 the figure had slumped to a mere 8 per cent. In contrast, West Germany's share over the same period rose from 11 per cent to 17 per cent.

The industry's weak position in world terms was rightly the starting point for the deliberations of the rubber processing sector working party under the aegis of the National Economic Development Office which is now looking for ways in which overseas penetration can be increased.

The halting of the downward slide in the world market share of the processors are crucial if the processors are to avoid a further contraction, a trend that has been aggravated by steadily rising imports.

At the beginning of the 1970s, about one in every 11 car and nearly 10 in every 100 trucks in the United Kingdom were of foreign origin but by 1975 this had risen to about one in six. Similarly, 7 per cent of rubber gloves bought in 1970 were imported increasing to 20 per cent five years later.

Unfortunately for the rubber processors, many of the courses of action that could lead to a more dynamic growth rate in home and overseas trade are beyond their control. A large part of the industry's sales abroad is in the form of components to other domestic industries while at home the industry is particularly prone to the vagaries of the motor vehicle market and to the buying policies of the car companies.

The working party, in its first report last July, stressed that as a result of those buying policies, profits on original equipment sales were low and most companies had maintained that sales provided little more than break-even results.

This has been made worse in recent years by the practice of some overseas manufacturers of dumping rubber products, particularly tyres and industrial hose, on the United Kingdom market. The effect on prices and the profitability of the domestic companies has been serious and the working party expressed the rather forlorn hope that the government would change anti-dumping procedures so that the onus was on source countries to prove they were not dumping instead of the practice requiring United Kingdom producers to provide proof.

In reply, Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, simply said that such a switch would need a change in international agreements. He thought the interests of industry were best served through existing legislation and through the close cooperation between the Department of Trade and Customs and Excise.

Because of their great dependence on the motor industry, the rubber processors have also pressed for a much more detailed flow of information from the car companies about market forecasts, investment plans, future model policy and so on, and are seeking guidance from the government's motor industry tripartite group.

It is clear, however, that in the highly competitive world of car making, companies are reluctant to talk in other than guarded terms. It also seems unlikely that the sector working party will be able to pry any more commercial information from the car makers than that already provided by the customers of big companies like Daimler and Leyland.

Ronald Faux

Brighter weather offshore

Mr Alan Blackshaw has recently taken over as director-general of the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow at a propitious time in the growth of the North Sea oil business.

The British oil platform yards are now established, well experienced and competing more effectively in the world market. The share of the £1,000m North Sea spin-off captured by British engineers and suppliers after an unpromising start is growing and the number of jobs generated in Scotland, about 55,000 at the last count, has brought a healthy impetus to the North-east.

After two years in which no orders were placed in the British yards, much to the embarrassment of the supplies office, the first order for a new North Sea platform has been announced by Chevron Petroleum for Highland Fabricators at Nigg. Other orders are likely and Britain is now in a position to compete for any size or shape of platform in any kind of material.

Altogether the oil industry is a cheerful spot in an otherwise gloomy picture.

For a civil servant the directorship of the offshore supplies office is an unusually informal job, since the oil industry is generally everything the Civil Service is deemed not to be — brash, impulsive, fast-moving and crudely dismissive of the kind of departmental ceremonies for which Whitehall has a reputation.

"They don't want to spend time talking to people unproductively and they are shy of

government. Perhaps they hardly see us now as government but as recognizable in our own right and not associated with the normal run of state involvement", Mr Blackshaw said.

He is a stocky, quiet-mannered man, when he is not acting as broker on behalf of the taxpayer between oilmen and industrialists, is devoted to mountaineering. He is a former president of the British Mountaineering Council — an organization which he quickly revolutionized — and the author of the definitive textbook on mountaineering.

The Government's efforts to win a larger share of the oil business still receive a steady barrage of criticism but Mr Blackshaw bases an optimistic view on a few decisive signs. When it is discovered that the North Sea has significant oil fields, Britain's manufacturing industry had had little experience of the oil industry. Inevitably the country scrambled behind the rapid pace of development by other companies and by a British economy badly in need of the scale of transfusion which oil has been able to give.

Inflation and the high cost of producing oil from the North Sea forced a pause in orders for new platforms which confounded the supplies office and left some expensive holes in the Scottish earth gloomily vacant.

"This has always been difficult to predict but I think that we may expect to come four or five steel and concrete platforms will be ordered in the next 18 months. In fact, the

circumstances in the car market.

Tyre making in the United Kingdom is already in the hands of a few companies and there is little scope for further integration. Rubber processing in Britain employs about 120,000 people at 500 establishments but over three quarters of them employ less than 200 and provide less than 11 per cent of total employment.

The top 10 per cent of employers account for 74 per cent of employment and 75 per cent of the industry's sales is to the vehicle industry including 45 per cent for tyres.

The working party believes that although overall profitability of the industry did not deteriorate significantly between 1973 and 1976, cash flow has been inadequate to provide the reinvestment rate of return necessary to maintain the viability of United Kingdom plants in world trade competition.

Apart from the motor industry problems that have affected the rubber processors' profit record, another constraint that has caused concern is the absence in the United Kingdom of a manufacturer of resorcinol, an important raw material in tyres.

The strategic implications of being dependent upon a foreign supplier are clear but although the tyre makers have been urging the chemical industry for some years to build a resorcinol plant at home, none has yet been convinced that such a development would provide the necessary return.

Another and vital aspect of the industry, affecting both the tyre and general rubber goods producers, which will need careful study before the formulation of an overall strategy is the improvement of productivity.

There have already been substantial redundancies in the rubber industry and in many sectors there is an urgent need to replace outdated equipment to ensure future competitiveness.

Edward Townsend

The spring will be sprung

Sooner or later every incomes policy founders upon its own absurdities, usually in the second or third year of its currency. If the present British Leyland dispute does not turn out to be for Mr Hesley what the miners' dispute was for Mr Heath three years ago, then beyond a shadow of a doubt something else will.

In neither case could the claim being made be represented as an example of a powerful monopoly trade union trying to extract for its members more than the economic value of their labour, which is the general characteristic of collective bargaining to remedy which incomes policies were invented.

In both cases the difficulty arises because payments which would be perfectly economically and commercially justifiable conflict with the rules of an incomes policy whose general effectiveness depends on no exceptions being seen to be made.

It is, moreover, a total delusion to suppose that the problem is merely one of timing, that if only the Leyland toolroom workers would wait until a more flexible phase three the industry would be in a relative pay could be made consistently with the general fabric of an incomes policy. One man's differential is another man's anomaly.

There is no internally consistent pattern of pay relativities which would satisfy simultaneously all or even the bulk of the customary and desired relationships between the rewards of each group. The simultaneous equations A is greater than B, B is greater than C, and C is the same as A just will not solve.

The problem goes deeper. The aim of any incomes policy is to influence the behaviour of an average (the trend of average money earnings) while allowing the industry to determine its own supply and demand for labour or of relative bargaining strength, to determine the components of the average (the pay of each group). Yet in the nature of any incomes policy, which is a form of administrative intervention in market bargaining, it can only influence the average by operating directly on the components.

One might as well seek by direct controls to determine the average time taken by runners in a marathon race, without affecting their relative performance. Nor is it easy to devise in the labour market any practical analogue to such indirect methods as making the runners all carry weights or all run at wireless altitudes.

There is, of course, nature's remedy. If the government creates enough spending power to validate the general increase in monetary rewards, then prices simply rise to reduce the gain in real rewards to what the economic facts of life make possible, while relativities are freely determined.

If the government increases spending power only in line with the rate of short-term growth in the real output, then unemployment rises until excessive pay settlements are on average deterred; and relativities are still freely determined.

But that is precisely the dilemma — acceleration, inflation or high unemployment — which incomes policies were invented to solve. There are also ingenious mechanisms, such as the Ekan plan devised by a New Zealand economist of that name, which attempt to nature's remedies through the tax system.

But they leave undiminished the incentive to individual groups of workers to exercise their bargaining power to the maximum and lead in the end to absurd results which are extremely difficult to unravel.

Yet, the Chancellor still faces the problems, both political and economic, of a potential pay explosion in the autumn if open season is declared from next August or if the formula for the next phase is widely ignored.

Politically, there is little attraction for the government in a free-for-all or in an ineffective policy, since the electoral argument that the Tories cannot cope with the trade unions would be much weakened by a demonstration that Labour could not either.

Economically, a strong upward pressure on pay, whether it was absorbed by a sharp rise in unemployment or by a reacceleration of inflation, would obliterate the Chancellor's strategy over the last two years of bringing down inflation while nurturing a revival of manufacturing output. Investment and general employment by making British labour more internationally competitive.

Even if he could generate extremely modest inflationary expectations by persuading people to concentrate on the real influences on the retail

Peter Jay
Economics Editor

price index from this spring onwards rather than on the crude popular percentage increase over the past 12 months, it would still be most unlikely that people would be dissuaded from trying to make good what they believe they have lost since the 1974-75 pay round.

The option of a big income tax reduction looks less and less efficacious. To make a real impact something over £2,000m would have to be added to the budget deficit; and even on the Treasury's latest short-term forecasts there does not look like being much more above £1,000m of room within the £8,700m ceiling pledged to the International Monetary Fund.

Secondly, there is now no prospect of securing a *quid pro quo* from the TUC before the budget at the end of this month.

Thirdly and most importantly, even if the TUC would commit itself to a realistic norm for phase three in return for income tax cuts, this would merely raise again all the fundamental problems of reconciling effective control of the average with flexibility for the components discussed above.

For a general cut in income tax does not make the gross pay increase in gross pay any less desirable for each group of workers. Indeed, in strict cash terms it makes it more desirable.

So, certain conclusions emerge. Politics requires that there be a visible phase three, but it is not generally disregarded. Economics requires that there be a large readjustment of pay relativities without an excessive growth in average monetary earnings.

The only known mechanism under conditions of collective bargaining for reconciling moderate average growth in earnings with market-determined relative rewards is a free-for-all with a tight fiscal and monetary policy. The counterpart to this in the private sector is tight cash limits in individual expenditure programmes within which the various spending agencies are free to make what compromise between pay increases and real improvements in public services they can.

It follows that the right phase three is one which provides the highest and most flexible possible formal ceiling (thereby making it so far as possible breach-proof) with the clearest possible indication that every penny up to that ceiling is going to have to be negotiated under conditions of severe financial stringency for both public and private employers.

But that is almost certainly a bad year for industrial relations and a dire tendency for people, whether through miscalculation or imperiousness to the facts of life, to price themselves out of their jobs.

But that is better than a bad year for parliamentary democracy, which would be the consequence of trying to enforce the unenforceable.

Moreover, the problem of re-entry into normal market bargaining cannot be solved by indefinite postponement any more than pressing indefinitely down on a spring can have any effect other than to increase its eventual recoil.

Business Diary: Home truths • Fact and FABLE

The officers of the Catholic Building Society may bank upon enjoying their just rewards in another place but at the moment they appear to be having a little on account here and now.

Assets have more than doubled (£2.6m) in the last four years higher than the building society movement average, and are expected to go up by about a third in half the year.

The 1976 financial statement, just released, shows that the CBS was able to loan a third more than in 1975, that four in ten of the loans went to people earning £3,000 a year or less and that six in ten went to first-time buyers.

This compares with a movement average of less than two and less than five in ten respectively.

Francis Higgins, the CBS's managing director, told Business Diary yesterday that three quarters of the society's loans are to Catholics.

The CBS is one of the smallest and newest of the building societies, established by Catholic laity in 1960. At this time, he says, building societies were discriminating against Catholics.

This was not on religious grounds as such, but because there were many Catholics with small incomes and large families living in city centres and interested in older property — which comes down to pretty much the same thing.

The CBS, Higgins says, can discriminate just as legally for Catholics as the longer established societies could discriminate against them. This is because the proportion of loans to co-religionists is the same as

the proportion of applications from them.

Many of the poorer applicants have been helped with option mortgages, and the loyalty of depositors has been such that the CBS has been able to make loans of up to 95 per cent at a time when other societies have been advancing 70 per cent or less.

Helping minority groups is good business says Higgins — himself a Catholic — and he says it would probably pay the bigger, longer-established groups to be more socially aware.

Stand by

Prince Wladyslaw Potrynski, a Pole in the exhibition business, was to be seen at a London hotel yesterday lunching "already committed potential participants" in a venture called FABLE.

This is short for Floating Arab-British Luxury Expedition, under which it is proposed to send a boatload of British salespeople and their wares on a two and a half month cruise around Gulf ports.

The boat, a 10,000-ton French vessel, was to have left this month but will now not sail before November — if then. Should bookings not pick up, the project may have to be re-named FABLE or Floating Arab-French and British Expedition, for plans do exist to sell space in France.

Guests at yesterday's lunch were addressed by the prince, and then exhorted by John Warburton, head of the overseas directorate of the CBI, David Bissett, of the De-

partment of Trade's Middle East division, and Bryan Brisby, the retired resident director of the Cyprus Popular Bank in Nicosia.

Brisby has been brought back out of retirement by the British Bank of the Middle East to preside over banking operations aboard ship, and to liaise with branches of the bank of call.

BBME is not backing the project financially, the organizers say, but they suggest that Arab interests are or may be.

There will be 120 "stands" aboard the boat, half for industrial firms and half for retailers, costing between £10,000 and £12,500.

Glorian, the prince's company, has firm bookings for between six and 25 stands so far, depending upon which of the representatives one speaks to.

John Klue, one of the Glorian team who inclines to the lower number, said yesterday they need to sell about two thirds of the stands before the cruise is on.

He would like to reach that figure by the end of May when Glorian will have to confirm its charter of the boat. If British bookings are thin, the company will look to the French. Klue declined to name those who had signed on for the cruise.

Recruiting

Judith Hudson has good reason to be pleased today — business is picking up and she became a director of the firm that is picking up some of the business.

Ms Hudson, creative director of Charles Barker Recruitment, has gone on to the board and



Photograph by Warren Harrison
Just the Job: Judith Hudson of Charles Barker Recruitment yesterday.

is now as far as she knows the only woman director of a recruitment advertising agency.

She told Business Diary yesterday: "For the first time in a year or 18 months recruitment is beginning to pick up a bit, particularly in professional and higher-level jobs."

Clients of firms such as her own were perhaps thinking after a year of cutting down on everything that they did need top quality people in the higher-level jobs.

One of Ms Hudson's jobs this week has been a first stint as a judge of the Newspaper Society's awards for newspaper advertising designed by newspapers themselves rather than by agencies.

"I was very impressed by the standard of the black and white ads, but not so impressed, strange enough, by the colour advertisements", she said.

The awards won't be announced until April, although Ms Hudson was able to say that the standard was high enough for them to be made in all the categories.

A test case

The National Union of Bank Employees found little sympathy from bank management when it suggested a chat about the extent to which bank employees should keep quiet about those aspects of customers' affairs likely to be of interest to HM Inland Revenue.

Local directors of Barclays Bank are now asking for names of managers willing to be guinea pigs in a test case before the courts over the Revenue's claim for a slice of payments of up to £4,800 made by the bank to managers to help them through the house price boom of the early 1970s.

The money went to employees who sold houses cheap before the soft mortgages to which bank staff have become accustomed. Maybe that's why many were to be seen lurking in cupboards.

Jargon corner: a speaker at a business function told his audience yesterday: "Over my dead body will there be any disaffiliation."



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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Leyland's shadow looms at last

In a market temporarily out of steam and susceptible to any influence the virtual shutdown of Leyland assumed more significance than of late. A firm start lasted for just an hour after which the buyers disappeared and profits started to be taken. This trend lasted until mid-afternoon, when encouraging reserves figures and reports of a less militant stance by the miners on incomes policy brought a minor revival. The FT Index, 3.9 up, at 10 am, went into reverse thereafter, and by 1 pm was 2.8 below its overnight level. Between then and the close it gained a full three points to end at 406.6, just 0.2 better on the day.

After Brown Muff and Elys (Wimbolden), the latest target of speculators in independent stores is Bourne & Hollingsworth. The shares jumped 10p to 64p in a thin market. But Mr. P. O'Donnell, director and secretary, says he knows of no approach. "These things go in cycles," he says. Debenhams has been mentioned in the past.

The market was also a help to gilts which cut back earlier losses of up to half a point. By the close, most were one-quarter to three-eighths lower, additionally helped by the conviction that interest rates will fall again soon. There is expectation of a half-point cut, but not necessarily this week.

After January's record turnover in gilts, there was a predictable fall-off last month. The fixed-interest total of £1,231,088,000 compared with January's £1,859,100, but equities held up well with a small

decline from £1,569.1m to £1,528.3m. The total of all deals was £12,759.4m, against £20,408.2m.

News that the Government is to drop its plan to nationalize shipbuilders brought a brisk trade to associated shares late in the day.

Some like Hawthorn Leslie up 16p to 56p and Swan Hunter 8p to 65p soared on the news, but others which had been geared to expect compensation terms went sharply into reverse with Xerox off 6p to 126p and Vespene 4p lower at 87p.

Among the leading industrial shares there was generally little change by the end of the day with Glaxo 453p, BAT Industries 262p and Unilever 442p all at overnight levels. ICI, which has been underperforming of late, managed a penny rise to 335p, while the price of BHP rose to 200p. It may still be entertaining capital reorganization plans and the shares jumped another 8p, for a close of 424p.

After letting it be known that it would like other approaches to rival Babcock & Wilcox, the

shares of Herbert Morris jumped 5p to 173p. Terms from Tricontrol, off 2p to 138p, put Ashmore investment up 14p to 65p to give one of the biggest percentage rises of the day.

The increasing feeling that the bid from Associated Engineering will fail in the face of stiff opposition left Serck 5p lower at 78p, while there was speculative interest on bid talk in Spirax Sarco, up 5p to 161p, Stag Furniture 9p to 71p and Wm Press which continued to go ahead with a rise of 14p to 47p.

In foods, Ranks Hovis held steady at 444p in spite of redundancy news, while S. & W. Berisford lost a couple of pence to 181p. The company gave details of loan stock conversion.

Random features had Warren Holdings up 5p to 145p on fresh bid talk, Sennah Rubber better by 20p to 200p on its office interests, Empire Stores up to the good at 86p on demand in a thin market and Sylvania up 10p to 63p with a dividend forecast outweighting a £353,000 rights issue.

Discounter Comet Radiovision is surprisingly perhaps, going through another pre-budget bonnet. It is already known that profits in the six months to February were well up on those for the whole of 1974-75 (£2.26m). Now it looks as if the year to August will see them notch £4m for earnings a share of 15p against a market price of 66p. On a maximum dividend, the yield rises to 8 per cent, more than four times

Exports again to give boost to Nu-Swift

By Ashley Druker
Taking off at half time with a 68 per cent leap fire extinguisher group Nu-Swift Industries was confident then of record profits for the year. The second six months to December 31 did show some puffing. They contributed £447,000 against the first half's £481,000. Even so, pre-tax profits finished strongly 32 per cent ahead at a best-ever £928,000.

Turnover in the year advanced 16 per cent to £7.71m. That at home rose 11 per cent to £5.65m and exports 30 per cent to £2.05m. Net profits increased from £338,000 to £444,000, and profit margins from 10.6 to 12 per cent. Earnings a share went up from 16.5p to 22.2p. The total

dividend rises from 196p gross to 216p.

Even more successful trading is heralded for 1977 by Mr. Ivan Dorr, Nu-Swift chairman. The group will be investing in new plant to reduce costs and also increasing the quality of products. A big addition to the specialized fire-fighting programme should also come on stream by September.

Features of the year just past were a broadening of the group's product base. Nu-Swift also concluded a buying-selling agreement with a leading American company with rights to market world-wide, excluding the United States and Canada, a two-battery operating Early Warning Smoke and Heat Detector.

'Handshake' for London & L'pool director

The managing director of London & Liverpool Trust's banking offshoot, Mr. Ian Salmon, has resigned from that post and from the main board and is to receive a golden handshake of £15,000. He had served the banking group, and its predecessor, for over 10 years.

He and fellow director Mr. Peter Squire are resigning following the sale by them of a 29.9 per cent stake in the group to investment clients of Schlesinger, a subsidiary of Charter Consolidated for 18p against 16p in the market.

Hanson collects nearly £1m from Whitcroft

Hanson Trust is not going away from its film failed bid for Whitcroft empty handed. It has sold the 25 per cent stake in the textiles, building, engineering supplies and leather group, which formed the cornerstone of its bid. The stake has been "placed widely with institutional investors".

Hanson built up its stake about 18 months ago when the shares were worth around 100p each. The market price is now 143p, giving Hansons a paper profit on the sale of nearly £1m.

Institutions' £15m fund to aid small businesses

By Adrienne Gleeson
Three heavyweight institutions, Prudential Assurance, Midland Bank and the British Gas Central Pension Funds, have joined to set up a new company, Moracrest Investments, to provide equity finance to small private businesses.

The idea is that Moracrest—whose total capitalization of £15m is to be subscribed as required by its three parent companies when they find themselves long on momentum, short on resources and still too small to come to the market for a public quotation.

Individual investments by Moracrest, which is aimed at limited private companies with

a proven management record and pre-tax profits normally in excess of £100,000, will generally be up to £500,000, representing shareholdings of between 10 and 40 per cent in the client companies. It may also take stakes in some small publicly-quoted companies.

As well as providing extra financial resources, the new company is, through the appointment of a non-executive director, to provide a link with specialized services, particularly in the financial field.

Moracrest will consider buying existing shareholdings in private companies. Its chairman is to be Mr. Jack Smith, deputy chairman of British Gas.

THE PRESTIGE GROUP LIMITED

Mr. David Lawman reports on 1976

The following is an extract from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. D. J. T. Lawman, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1976.

THE YEAR'S RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

Group sales for the year amounted to £47,930,463, an increase of 13.9% compared with last year's total of £42,088,682. Group net profit before taxation and before extraordinary items improved by 14.8% to £5,453,925 (1975-£4,751,374). The Board is recommending a final dividend of 13% making a total for 1976 of 20% (1975-18.195%).

1976 IN BRIEF	1976 £'000	1975 £'000	INCREASE %
SALES	47,930	42,089	13.9
PROFIT BEFORE TAX AND EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	5,454	4,751	14.8
CORPORATE TAX	2,909	2,461	18.2
PROFIT AVAILABLE	2,449	2,228	9.9
Earnings per share	13.63p	12.31p	
ORDINARY DIVIDENDS			
Rate	20%	18.195%	
Cost	905	824	
Times covered	2.7	2.7	
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	16,505	14,960	10.3
Profit as % of shareholders' funds	33.0%	31.8%	

Copies of the 1976 Accounts and the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, The Prestige Group Limited, Prestige House, 14-18 Holborn, London EC1N 2LD. The Annual General Meeting will be held in London on 30th March, 1977.

Prestige

Manufacturers of 'Prestige', 'Skyline', 'Ewbank', 'O-Cedar', & 'Old Hall' household products.

Overseas companies operating in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's Prev
Berakt (25p) Int	1.25	ago	date	total year
Berakt (25p) Int	1.25	1.0	25/4	4.0
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01
Berakt (25p) Int	1.01	0.91	31/3	1.01

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Earnings in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Includes special dividend of 1.46p. † Cents per share.

Witter matches its best-ever

Floor covering group Thomas Witter had a fine recovery in the first six months of 1976. Sales rose 20 per cent to £21.2m but pre-tax profits jumped 51 per cent to £1.2m. These matched the record profits made in 1972-73.

Investments in income and interest receivable doubled from £10,000 to £22,000, but tax jumped £229,000 to £573,000. The provision for deferred tax was largely to blame. Against a credit of £173,000, this time round it became a charge of £394,000.

Earnings a share improved from 3.5p to 5.6p and the dividend only goes up from 3.94p gross to 4.32p.

Balamundi World Corporation of the United States holds 44.6 per cent of Witter.

Scottish Mutual premium spurt

New annual premiums contracted by the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society last year rose by 22 per cent compared with an industry-wide increase of 18 per cent. The total amount invested in Stock Exchange securities by the life office was almost £16m of which £10m went into gilts.

The balance found its way into ordinary shares and rights issues. A further £6m was invested in property, which now represents 15 per cent of the office's assets.

Into the red again at Rakusen Gp

A profit of £111,000 gave way to a loss of £178,000 at Rakusen Group in the year to June 30 after interest charges of £150,000 against £155,000 and a provision of £216,000 after recognising work in progress. Turnover rose from £1.9m to £1.54m.

The accounts were delayed pending a decision by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the public hearing which followed the group's dispute with the local

authority over the Meanwood Road Factory.

Since the year end the board has cut back in property and the product range of the food division has been widened.

Vavasseur on the way back

On the mend in 1975-76, financial services group J. H. Vavasseur now reports more than doubled profits for the first half year to December 31. Turnover rose from £8.83m to £11m, holding pre-tax profit from £312,000 to £747,000. This was after interest payable less amounts charged to provisions up from £66,000 to £80,000.

After deducting minorities the profit for the first half year doubled from £57,000 to £112,000, an attributable loss of £51,000 turned into a profit of £339,000. But there is again no preference or ordinary dividend.

The board says that trading operations scored a useful improvement in profitability. Meanwhile the 80 per cent owned subsidiary Mills & Allen reports interim profits of £106m against £423,000.

W. Mining windfall

Western Mining increased its operating profit from £55.49m to £57.03m, after an "abnormal" item of £52.5m in the first half year to December 31. Turnover rose from £57.8m to £59.2m. The interim dividend of three cents is maintained. Revenue from nickel rose by 27 per cent, thanks mainly to a 91 per cent price rise and a higher proportion of metal in the sales mix.

Union Discount

Falling interest rates and a buoyant gilt-edged market have once more given Union Discount, of London, a highly profitable start to its year. But Mr. A. Ritchie, chairman, told the annual meeting the last nine months of 1976 proved difficult.

He thinks interest rates still have farther to fall, but the recent suspension of the formula for minimum lending rate may have slowed down the decline. Annual inflation of 16

per cent and the next wages phase are daunting.

Syltöne bullish in 2-for-5 'rights'

Market response to a rights issue, loan, and a bullish forecast from Syltöne put shares up 7p to 60p yesterday. This maker of pumps and compressors announces a two-for-five "rights" issue at 42p—a discount of 18p—to raise about £353,000. This will buttress the equity to support more business.

Syltöne has also arranged a five-year term loan of £350,000 with bankers. For the year to March 31, 1977, it expects pre-tax profits of at least £600,000, against £362,000.

For the longer run, the board expects demand in 1977-78 will be even higher. For this year Syltöne will pay a final 3.6p on the enlarged equity, making 5p compared with 4.2p.

Rbt M. Douglas holds its ground

Expecting no more than to hold its ground five months ago, Robert M. Douglas Holdings, civil engineer and builder, did just that in the half year to September 30.

Turnover went down from £41.2m to £37.4m, but pre-tax profits held steady at £1.48m against £1.41m. For the full year to March 31, 1977, the board is confident that the outcome will be "satisfactory".

Last year it turned in a record £2.67m. Main efforts then were concentrated on growth overseas.

The interim dividend goes up from 1.39p gross to 1.52p.

Local authorities

The interest rate on local authority bonds this week is down from 11 1/2 per cent to 11 per cent. The biggest borrower is Leeds at £2m; Hertfordshire, Monksland and Oldham are raising £1m each. Two-year bonds at 12 1/2 per cent are offered by Cleveland to raise £500,000, and Durham with £250,000, while Cleveland also has a five-year bond at 13 1/2 per cent to raise £500,000.

Beaver—CH Industrials

When old friends fall out

The contested £1.2m bid from CH Industrials for Beaver Group may serve as an example of how a seemingly amicable merger can turn sour. It may also demonstrate the problems which arise for a small company, forswearing a retreat into the realms of private ownership, wide institutional investment by breaking in on higher earnings and assets grounds.

The defence document is due in the next few days while Beaver rushes out its 1976 figures and prepares a forecast for the current year. When it arrives, hopefully in good time before the offer closes on March 11, shareholders may find it useful to consider the background.

The two sides had been talking for over a year until, in response to a rise in the Beaver share price (the group had long been regarded as a volatile bid stock) merger talks were officially unveiled on January 5 last.

Within the next 17 days, the talks had been called off and the Beaver chairman, Mr. F. W. Merz, had resigned. His deputy, Mr. H. E. M. Barnes, who assisted Mr. Merz during the earlier merger negotiations, took over and quickly rallied resistance to CH Industrials' cash-and-paper offer launched on February 18.

Just before the bid, CH Industrials' chairman, Mr. Tim Hearley, resigned from Hart Morris since it had been brokered to both CH Industrials and Beaver.

At about the same time, Brands which had been connected with CH Industrials, sold its 25 per cent stake in a 6 1/2 discount to the prevailing market price of 29p. Charterhouse group took 15 per cent and Keyser Ullman through Throgmorton Trust, took the rest although its holding has now come back to 9.9 per cent.

The offer currently values Beaver at 44 pence and with the price now standing at the same level, the market is clearly taking no view as to the outcome.

CH Industrials has pushed its holding up to the 15 per cent limit—any further and it would be obliged to underwrite the entire offer for cash—and it is understood that Mr. Merz, who holds around 10 per cent, may be amenable to the bid terms. In addition, he attracted various friends to invest in Beaver and these are thought to be regarded as stale bulls who would come out with the offer in respect of their 23 per cent total holdings.

Overall, Mr. Hearley reckons he can count on over 40 per cent acceptances before the count is finally taken. But the deal will be hard fought, no matter how suddenly (and inexplicably) the Beaver board reversed its earlier thinking.

Its main planks will be asset backing, in the 1975 accounts at 67p per share, and the absence of any commercial logic. C. H. Industrial, anxious to widen its base, would not dispute the latter point too hard, although shareholders may be entitled to wonder why it took Beaver over a year to discover that the two companies did not "fit" industrially. The clue, perhaps, may be found in Mr. Merz's decision to quit the defending board.

After a profits fall from £454,000 to £286,000 in 1975 and a drop from £160,000 to £119,000 at midway last year, Beaver will have to work hard to kill the bid on earnings grounds alone. The downturn has been attributed to persistent problems in the paint division and, indeed, Mr. Merz is understood to have relieved the divisional director of his responsibilities. He has subsequently been reinstated.

Shareholders should take no action before the defence is published but its contents should make revealing reading.

Ray Maughan

UBAF

BANK LIMITED

(formerly UBAF Limited)

Balance Sheet at 31 December 1976

	£	£
Share capital and reserves		
Authorised, issued and fully paid ordinary shares of £1 each	10,000,000	
General reserve	1,000,000	
Retained profit	652,431	
Shareholders' subordinated loans U.S.\$11,880,000	6,863,725	
	18,516,156	
Deferred taxation	138,500	
Current liabilities		
Current and deposit accounts	352,566,589	
Taxation	1,199,006	
Creditors and accruals	436,111	
Proposed dividend	300,000	
	354,502,306	
	£373,156,962	
Current assets		
Cash, balances at bankers, money at call and short notice		123,182,292
Bills discounted		3,896,856
Deposits with banks		107,822,648
Loans and advances		30,762,148
Debtors and prepayments		107,470
		265,761,414
Loans and advances over one year		106,685,533
Investments—Unquoted at cost and directors' valuation		571,861
Fixed assets		138,154
		£373,156,962

TRADING PROFIT for the year ended 31 December 1976 after payment of interest on subordinated loans (£522,200) amounted to £2,627,289. DIVIDEND 3%—equal to 6% in comparison with the dividend of 5% for 1976 on the former share capital of £5,000,000—share capital increased to £10,000,000 fully paid on 1 December 1976.

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

The accounts for 1976 show a profit of £1,040,015 after tax, which is more than double the figure for 1975 (£405,822).

The Board maintains its cautious policy of building up reserves, and the sum of £500,000 has been added to the general reserve raising it to £1,000,000. Additionally £300,000 has been set aside against the possibility of any future loan losses.

More than fifty well-known and respected banks are now directly associated with the U.B.A.F. Group, and all of the Arab countries are represented in this association.

The change of name which took effect on 4 January 1977 was a change of name only. There is no change in the legal status or constitution of the Bank.

P.O. Box 169, Commercial Union Building, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3HT

SHAREHOLDERS: Libyan Arab Foreign Bank—25% Midland Bank Limited—25%

Big reverse for bearings giant

SKF, the Swedish multinational ball-bearing producer, took a hard knock in 1976. Profits dropped from 567m kronor (£78m) to 240m kronor, before provisions and taxes. Turnover increased by 1.9 per cent to 6,981m kronor, excluding McQuay-Norris of St. Louis, bought at the end of the year.

The group is repeating a dividend of 4.5 Kr a share. Agencies.

Agencies.

Stock Exchange Prices

Firmer at the close

Account Days : Dealings Began, Feb 28. Dealings End, March 11. § Contrango Day, March 14. Settlement Day, March 22

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Really Dry Gin

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DHABI, U.A.E.

ITATION FOR
AIN DRAINAGE
T-NO. M-3

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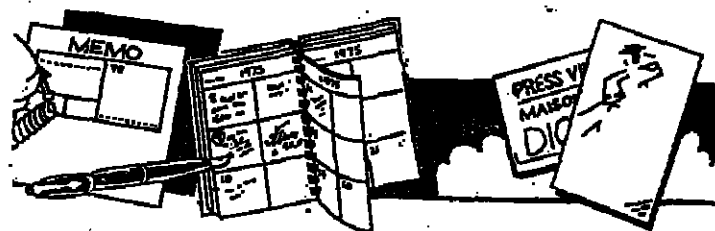
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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

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for a world famous company

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there are several interesting openings for Secretaries,
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The Company Secretary is also Legal Advisor to
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Conditions of service are good and include 20 days
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